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HISTORY
OR
MAY-FLOWER.

Hamilton (Am)
A CIRCASSIAN TALE.

SECOND EDITION.



Salisbury:

PRINTED BY J. EASTON;

FOR E. NEWBERRY, THE CORNER OF ST. PAUL'S
CHURCH-YARD, LONDON.

1796.

HISTORY

OF

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ADVERTISEMENT

TO THE
SECOND EDITION.

THIS beautiful **CIRCASSIAN TALE** was written by the celebrated Count Hamilton, author of the *Memoirs of Gramont*, and of several other much admired performances.

The occasion of his writing it is thus related by himself in the Introduction: The conversation happened to turn, in a company in which he was present, on the *Arabian Nights Entertainments*, which were just published; every one highly commended the book; many seemed to hint at the difficulty of writing that species of composition. "Nothing can be more easy," replied Count Hamilton, "and, as a proof of it, I will venture to write a *Circassian Tale*, after the manner of the *Arabian Nights Entertainments*,"

2 2

ments, on any subject which you can mention." "FIDDLESTICK,"* replied the other, "You have hit it," said Count Hamilton, "and I promise you that I will produce a Tale in which FIDDLESTICK shall be the principal hero." In a few days he finished this Tale, which he called FLEUR D'ÉPINE. It was much read and admired at Paris. It pleased me; I translated it for my own amusement, and I now give it to the Public, with several retrenchments and additions.

But before I introduce the Reader to the charming MAY-FLOWER, I will just beg leave to hint, that the moral of this Circassian Tale is, that Understanding is better than Beauty; that Fidelity is rewarded; and that those who do evil, suffer evil.

With a view of rendering this new edition as complete as possible, I have added an ENGRAVING from an original Picture of Count HAMILTON, the Author of the Circassian Tale.

* Tarare.

H I S T O R Y
OF
M A Y - F L O W E R,

C H A P. I.

***H**OW the Caliph of Cashmeer had a daughter whose name was Brilliant; and how that daughter had eyes; and how those eyes killed the men and blinded the women.—How the Caliph and all the Court were in great consternation; and how the Prime-Minister recommends Fiddlestick to provide a remedy against the fatal effects of those killing eyes.—How Fiddlestick consults the Fairy Serena, and acquaints the Caliph with the con-*

B*ditions*

ditions on which Serena will grant the remedy; and how he undertakes to fulfil those conditions.—How he paints Brilliant's portrait without being killed by her eyes; and how Brilliant, as she thinks, falls desperately in love with Fiddlestick; and how Fiddlestick, as he feels, does not fall desperately in love with Brilliant.—How he sets out on his expedition to release May-flower from the clutches of Old Mother Long Tooth.

ABOUT seven thousand three hundred and fifty three miles from hence there is a certain beautiful country called Cashmeer, which was governed by a Caliph. This Caliph had a daughter; and that daughter a face; but it would have been better for many if she had been born without one. For her beauty, tolerable to the fifteenth year

year of her age, became insupportable at that period. I shall not pretend to describe the most beautiful mouth that ever was seen, the whitest teeth, a nose which was neither too long nor too short; the liveliness of her complexion in comparison with which the lilies of Cashmeer, which are a thousand times whiter than ours, appeared dirty, and the carnation of her cheeks, which shamed the colour of the damask rose. But all these charms were nothing in comparison with her eyes, which shone with such astonishing brightness, that from the eighth year of her age, her father, who was a truly economical prince, used to extinguish all the candles at midnight throughout his palace, and the light from her eyes was so great, that all the courtiers (and courtiers always speak truth) declared they could see as well as

at midday. No one could ever distinguish their colour; for as soon as any one ventured to take a peep at them, he was immediately struck as with a flash of lightning; and from this circumstance she was called *Brilliant*.

THE misfortune was, that the finest young men of the court perished continually; and a day did not pass, that two or three of those fops, who affected to ogle whenever they met with a pretty pair of eyes, and who had hitherto escaped unhurt, could not avoid the general conflagration. Such indeed was the effect of the operation, that the flame passed rapidly from the eyes to the heart of those men who looked at her; and in less than four and twenty hours they died, continually pronouncing tenderly her name, and

humbly

humbly thanking her beautiful eyes for the honour of sending them to the grave.

THE fair sex however suffered differently. Those who saw her at a distance were dazzled to such a degree as to become near-sighted; but those who waited on her person purchased their honour at a dear rate: the Lady of the Bed Chamber, four Maids of Honour, and an old Mistress of the Robes, became absolutely blind.

THE grandees of the kingdom who saw their families daily extinguished by the fatal conflagration of her eyes, humbly petitioned the Caliph to find out some remedy for a disorder which deprived their sons of their lives, and their daughters of their sight.

ACCORDINGLY the Caliph summoned his council of state to deliberate on what was to be done. His Minister presided,

and this Minister was the filliest president alive.

THE council was divided in opinion. One party proposed to put Brilliant into a convent; supporting that there could be no harm if a dozen or two old nuns with their abbesses should become blind for the good of the state. A second party proposed to sew her eyelids together; and a third offered to take out her eyes with such address that she should feel no pain, keep them in a silver box, till the fatal fire was somewhat extinguished, and then replace them in their sockets as if they had never been taken out.

THE Caliph who tenderly loved his daughter, objected to all these proposals, and the Prime Minister, who penetrated his royal master's sentiments, got up to speak. The good man had cried bitterly
for

for above an hour, and he began his harrangue even without wiping his eyes, " I have been lamenting" he said, " the death of the Count my son, Knight of the Sword, which honour, however, could not preserve him from the fatal looks of the Princess. He was yesterday buried: so no more of him. We are now met for the service of your Majesty; and I must forget that I am a father, to remember only that I am a Minister."

" My grief has not prevented me from listening to the several opinions: and with great respect to the company, I do not approve any which have been given. Mine is as follows: I have a Squire in my service; I do not know whence he comes, or what he is; further I know, that since he has been in my service, I no longer trouble myself about the

“ affairs of my household. He is like a
 “ spirit who knows every thing : and
 “ although I have the honour of being
 “ your Majesty’s first Minister, yet I am a
 “ mere ignoramus in comparison with
 “ him. My wife tells me so every day.
 “ Now if your Majesty should find it good
 “ to consult him upon an affair of such
 “ difficulty, I am persuaded your Majesty
 “ would be satisfied.” — “ Willingly, good
 “ Mr. Minister,” returned the Caliph;
 “ and more particularly as I shall be very
 “ glad to see a man who has more wisdom
 “ and understanding than yourself.”

ON being sent for, the Squire refused
 to come, unless the eyes of the Princess
 were closed. “ Sire,” said the Minister,
 “ did not I tell you so !” — “ O ho,” re-
 “ plied the Caliph ; “ I see he is not de-
 “ ficient in understanding ; bring him
 “ here ;

“ here ; he shall not see my daughter’s
 “ eyes.” He soon came, and though
 neither well nor ill made, he had some-
 thing agreeable in his air, and striking in
 his physiognomy.

“ SPEAK boldly to him, Sire,” said the
 Minister, “ he understands all languages.”
 The Caliph who only understood his own
 tongue, and that not very well ; after me-
 ditating a long time in order to find out an
 ingenious question ; said to him, “ My
 “ friend “ what is your name ?” “ *Fiddle-*
 “ *stick,*” replied he ; “ *Fiddlestick,*” re-
 turned the Caliph ; “ *Fiddlestick,*” ex-
 claimed the Minister. “ I ask you,” re-
 sumed the Caliph, “ what is your name ?”
 “ I understand you, Sire.” — “ Well then”
 said the Caliph, “ what is it ?” “ *Fiddlestick,*”
 returned the other, making at the same
 time a low bow. “ And why are you

“ called *Fiddlestick* ?” “ Because it is my
 “ name.”—“ And how so ?”—“ Because I
 “ quitted my real name to take this ; so I
 “ am called *Fiddlestick*, although it is not
 “ my real name.”—“ Nothing is plainer,”
 returned the Caliph ; “ and yet I should
 “ never have found it out in a month.”
 —“ Well then, Mr. *Fiddlestick* ; what
 “ shall we do with my daughter ?” “ What
 “ you please, Sire.”—“ But I say, what
 “ shall we do with my daughter ?” pur-
 sued the Caliph.—“ What you please,”
 again replied *Fiddlestick*. “ To cut the
 “ matter short,” said the Caliph, “ my
 “ Minister advised me to consult you in
 “ regard to her misfortune in killing or
 “ striking blind those who look at her.”

“ *The Gods are to blame, Sire,*” *Fiddlestick* cries,
 “ *Who made her so handsome, and not her bright eyes.*”

“ BUT

" BUT if it is a misfortune to have such
 " beautiful eyes, hear what is to be done,
 " according to my humble opinion. The
 " Fairy Serena knows all the secrets
 " of nature : send her a trifling present of
 " a hundred or two hundred thousand ru-
 " pees, and if she does not find a remedy
 " for the eyes of the Princess you may be
 " fully persuaded that her disorder is in-
 " curable ; and in order to prevent all
 " excuses or delays, I myself will under-
 " take to consult Serena on your part, as I
 " am well acquainted with her habitation."

THE Caliph approved the proposal, and
 ordered a purse of the most brilliant dia-
 monds, and half a bushel of the largest
 pearls as a present for the Fairy ; and our
 adventurer set out on the expedition, not-
 withstanding the opposition and regret of
 the Minister's wife.

DURING his absence on this expedition which lasted a month, the eyes of Brilliant did more execution than ever; and the Caliph ordered public prayers and processions to incline Heaven to look with an eye of pity on his distressed subjects, and to prevent her from fixing her eyes on him. In the midst of these distresses and ceremonies *Fiddlestick* returned, and repairing to the Caliph, who was in the act of consulting his privy council, thus addressed him :

“SIRE, the Fairy Serena presents her
 “compliments, thanks you for your pre-
 “sent, but declines accepting it : she says
 “that she is able to render the eyes of the
 “Princess as harmless as those of your
 “Majesty, without diminishing their lustre,
 “provided you will supply her with four
 “things.” “Four,” returned the Caliph,
 “four

"four hundred if she pleases."—"Softly
 "if you please," replied *Fiddlestick*.
 "The first of these is the portrait of
 "Brilliant.—The second, *May-flower*.
 "—The third, the Luminous Hat.—And
 "the fourth, the Mare Sonora."—"What
 "is the meaning of all this?" interrupted
 the Caliph.—"I will tell you, Sire," re-
 turned *Fiddlestick*. "Serena has a sister
 "whose name is Mother Long Tooth,
 "she is almost as powerful as herself;
 "but as she employs her art in doing harm,
 "she is only a witch, while Serena is an
 "honest Fairy. Now this old hag con-
 "trived to convey away the daughter of
 "Serena, and is now endeavouring by the
 "most cruel usage to force her to marry
 "her son, who is a little monster. This
 "daughter of Serena is called *May-*
 "*flower*. The old hag has also in her
 "possession

“possession a hat all covered with dia-
 “monds, and those diamonds are so spark-
 “ling that they rival the sun, and are only
 “inferior to the lustre of Brilliant’s eyes :
 “this is the Luminous Hat. Besides these
 “things she has a mare, each hair of which
 “is provided with a golden bell so harmo-
 “nious, that it is a concert of itself; and
 “whenever this animal stirs, the united
 “sound of all the bells forms a melody
 “louder and more ravishing than the har-
 “mony of the spheres. This is the Mare
 “Sonora.”

“THESE are the four things which
 “Serena requires, and as a comfort, she
 “added, that it is next to impossible, for
 “any one, who endeavours to carry off
 “*May-flower*, the Luminous Hat, and So-
 “nora, not to avoid falling into the hands
 “of the old hag; and if that should hap-
 “pen,

“pen, not all the powers of the earth can
“again deliver him from her clutches.”

THE consideration of these hard terms affected the Caliph and his privy counsellors to such a degree, that they burst into tears. *Fiddlestick* affected at their sorrow said to the Caliph, “Sire, I know
“a man who will undertake to execute the
“first commission.”—“How,” returned the Caliph, “to draw the portrait of my
“daughter! and who is there sufficiently
“out of his senses to attempt what
“is impossible?”—“*Fiddlestick*,” replied the other; “*Fiddlestick*,” returned the Caliph; “*Fiddlestick*,” repeated the Minister, and all the privy counsellors; “*Fiddlestick*,” echoed the courtiers who were waiting in the drawing room till the Caliph made his appearance, and “*Fiddlestick*,” reechoed the servants who were
standing

standing in the court yard of the palace, and the boys who were playing in the streets.

"SIRE," said the Minister, "he will succeed if he undertakes it;" "And if he does," replied the Caliph, "who will undertake the rest?"—"Fiddlestick," answered the other.—"Fiddlestick," said the Caliph; "Fiddlestick," repeated the Minister, and all the privy counsellors; "Fiddlestick," echoed the courtiers, who were waiting in the drawing room till the Caliph made his appearance, and "Fiddlestick," reechoed the servants who were standing in the court yard of the palace, and the boys who were playing in the streets.

"SIRE," said *Fiddlestick* impatiently, "I cannot engage in this attempt, but under two conditions: the first, that
"when

“when my name is mentioned, it may
 “not be banded about from one to the
 “other, like so many echos; and the
 “second, that when the Princess is re-
 “stored to the state which you desire,
 “she may be permitted to chuse her own
 “husband.” The Caliph solemnly pro-
 mised; and the Minister, who loved
 business, issued letters patent under the
 great seal, granting to *Fiddlestick* the sole
 monopoly of painting the portrait of the
 Princess Brilliant, and of being called
Fiddlestick without any one’s presuming to
 repeat the name whenever it was men-
 tioned.

THIS important business being finished,
 the Caliph and all the whole court were
 employed in making conjectures by what
 means he would paint a countenance
 which no one could look at without instant
 blindness

blindness or death; but he soon convinced them that it was not impossible.

HAVING travelled much, and being accustomed to make a journal of his tour, he found in his notes, that in those countries where eclipses are common, the natives were accustomed to look at the sun through a glass tinged with a dark colour.

HE immediately contrived to make a pair of spectacles with glasses of a dark green colour; and having tried their effect against the sun at midday, he repaired to the apartments of Brilliant, with the proper apparatus for taking her portrait.

THIS proceeding surprised her; and to punish his rashness, she opened her eyes as much as she could; but all she did was in vain; for the painter, after he had sufficiently and minutely examined, under
cover

cover of his spectacles, the features of her countenance, began the portrait.

ALTHOUGH he was not a painter by profession, yet no one surpassed him in that art. He had an exquisite taste in all the branches of design, composition, and colouring, and was an admirable judge of beauty. The beauty of the Princess did not at first make upon his heart that impression which might have been expected. But by degrees his insensibility wore off, he became smitten with her charms, and endeavoured to render himself agreeable by the power of his wit and understanding, which he possessed in so high a degree. The Princess was not insensible to the praises which he bestowed on her beauty, and listened with the greatest attention to the agreeable account of his travels, which he related under the pretext of amusing her

her while she was sitting for her picture. She was so delighted with his lively fallies and amusing conversation, that she would often prolong the time in which she was to sit, always expressed her regret when he left her, quite forgot that his person was not as beautiful as his mind ; and at length became passionately in love with him. The portrait was no sooner finished than it became the admiration of the whole court : all the courtiers to a man declared that they could scarcely bear to look at the eyes of the picture, affected to borrow the spectacles for that purpose, and on examining the portrait, exclaimed,

- “ Fair Brilliant’s counterfeit ! what demi god
- “ Hath come so near creation ! move those eyes !
- “ Or whether reading in the balls of mine
- “ Seem they in motion ! here are sever’d lips
- “ Parted with sugar breath ; so sweet a bar
- “ Should sever such sweet friends ; here in her hairs
- “ The

“ The painter plays the spider, and hath woven
 “ A golden mesh t’entrap the hearts of men
 “ Faster than gnats in cobwebs: *but her eyes*
 “ *How could he see to do them?* having made one,
 “ *Metbinks it should have power to steal both his,*
 “ *And leave itself unfinished.*”

Meanwhile the Princess became pensive
 and melancholy; and her uneasiness in-
 creased as the time approached when he
 was to depart in pursuit of so dangerous
 an adventure.

ON taking leave she assured him, “ That
 “ in exposing himself for her sake he was
 “ going to labour for himself; for if he
 “ succeeded she was permitted to chuse her
 “ own husband, and she need not tell him
 “ who that should be; and if he did not
 “ succeed, she should then remain single.”

It must be confessed, that this declaration
 was plain and open; but in those days
 whenever a beautiful lady felt any symp-
 toms

toms of tenderness, she was eager to disclose them ; and Princesses were not more squeamish than other women. Nor was *Fiddlestick* shocked at this eagerness ; he flung himself twenty times at her feet, to express transports which he did not feel ; for he was astonished at finding, that his heart did not beat time with his mouth, and that he did not love as much as he professed.

CHAP.

CHAP. II.

How Fiddlestick disperses a troop of Wild Beasts.—How he sees a Parrot; and how he takes from the Parrot a Bag of Salt; and how his Heart is struck at the first sight of May-flower.—How he outwits Old Mother Long Tooth; how he obtains possession of the Luminous Hat and Sonora; how he punishes Master Long Tooth; and how he carries off May-flower.

BEING now in readiness to depart, the Caliph offered money and troops to facilitate the enterprize, but the brave adventurer refused both, and recommending himself to the protection of fortune, he set out without any other resource than that of his own courage and address.

As

As long as he continued in the kingdom of Cashmeer, all was pleasure. The flowers sprung up under his feet; strawberries and melons covered the ground; peaches apricots and figs fell into his mouth only for the trouble of opening it; continual spring rendered the air pleasant, and the sky serene. Whenever he wished to take repose, a large orange tree, growing on the banks of a running stream, offered a fresh and delicious foliage; and larks and nightingales lulled him to sleep with the most enchanting notes: but he had no sooner passed the mountains which bound that charming country, than he plunged into desarts and wildernesses full of wild beasts, so large, that in comparison, common lions and leopards would look like sheep.

HE was obliged to penetrate through
these

these forests to arrive at the habitation of Mother Long Tooth : and it seemed as if these perverse wild beasts were acquainted with his design ; for instead of attacking him, they extended themselves to the right and left ; and three hydras, ten rhinoceroses, fourteen elephants, and twenty griffins, placed themselves directly in a narrow way through which he must pass. Although he well knew the art of war, and was afraid of nothing, yet like many a wise general, he preferred stratagem to force.

HAVING collected a fagot of dry branches, he waited with patience till the approach of night, when striking fire with a flint and steel, which he always carried about him, he set fire to the faggot, and placing it upon a long pole, advanced boldly towards the enemy.

As all animals are terrified at the sight of fire, the whole crew of hydras, rhinoceroses, elephants, and griffins no sooner perceived the lighted faggot than they began to be terrified, and our knight-errant, like a good soldier, taking advantage of their alarm, uttered loud shouts, and advancing onward, found himself out of the forest at break of day.

ALTHOUGH weary with this night's work, and desirous of sleep, yet he could not venture to remain in so dangerous a place ; and as he was continuing his journey, the sun rose, and its first rays darted upon something shining in the midst of a path at a little distance. He followed that path, and as he came near the object, he saw a most beautiful parrot, which immediately rose from the ground, and flew to a bush a few paces from him.

The

The feathers of its wings were gold and azure, its body was crimson and white, its beak and its talons shone like pure gold.

HE examined it attentively, was charmed with its beauty, and impelled by something more than curiosity, was desirous of approaching nearer, but was afraid lest it should be startled and fly away.

THE parrot however did not seem in the least alarmed : but searching into the bush, drew out a little bag which he placed upon the ground, opened it with great address, took out a few grains of salt, and after scattering them with his talons, picked them up with his beak.

"PARROT my heart," said *Fiddlestick* ; "do not eat that salt, it will do you harm." The parrot immediately burst

into a fit of laughter, looking at him at the same time with a very serious air. "What a charming parrot" said he "it is absolutely a phoenix." "*Fiddlestick*," said the parrot, interrupting him, and flew out of sight.

OUR adventurer immediately took up the bag of salt, and continued his journey along the same path, hoping that the parrot would return, since he had carried off the salt. "I do not comprehend" said he to himself, "what could have alarmed him: but what can be the reason? why even to the birds of the air, all things repeat *Fiddlestick* as soon as they hear that word. But what is still more remarkable, this parrot uttered it of his own accord. But what could induce me to assume that name and quit my own! Was it the adventure of the magpies?"

“magpies? Yet surely no one would
 “believe me if I should relate that
 “adventure day after day : and indeed
 “I scarcely know whether I who saw it,
 “ought to believe it myself.”

FULL of these reflections, he continued his route through a barren and uninhabited country, amusing himself with a thousand different thoughts, in which Brilliant had some share ; but she did not occupy his whole attention with those long and agreeable reveries, in which true lovers are fond of losing themselves, and building those delightful castles in the air ; wherein the imagination is better lodged than the judgment.

NIGHT approached, and extenuated with fatigue and hunger, he found himself unable to proceed any farther ; and fortunately perceived a hovel at a small

distance. On entering, he observed a little old man and his wife, and every appearance of wretchedness and poverty : but having other things in his head than a good supper and bed, he determined to pass the night there.

HE was well received and supplied with every thing the cottage afforded, for he gave them more money than would have purchased the whole domain. Two goats seemed to be their whole substance, which their son, a ragged boy had just driven in and which took up their abode with the rest of the company, for the house did not afford a separate room.

HAVING learned from these poor cottagers all the information necessary for the execution of his enterprize ; in the morning he changed dress with the ragged boy, placed a patch upon his eye, purchased

chased the two goats, and not forgetting his bag of salt, took his leave, directing his steps towards the spot which led to the house of the Sorcerers, disregarding the advice of his hosts, not to go there, unless he had very particular business.

HE had not gone far, before he heard a most delightful harmony, which became more melodious in proportion as he drew nearer : he well knew from whence it came, and driving on his goats, he reconnoitered the environs, and stopped in a small wood, which was watered by a lively rivulet.

THE neighbourhood was so dangerous a place, and the near approach of so rash an adventure excited some reflections, and those reflections were accompanied with some uneasy sensations, but did not pro-

duce either fear or repentance. He repeatedly exclaimed,

“ Love sounds the alarm,

“ And fear is a flying ;

“ When beauty’s the cause,

“ What mortal fears dying ?”

WHILE he was thus fortifying his resolution with all the magnanimous expressions which he ever remembered to have heard at the theatre, he observed a person who engaged all his attention. To judge from her delicacy, she might have been taken for the aurora of a summer’s day ; from her shape, and gait, for Juno herself ; and from her grace, for all the graces assembled in one person. As she approached, he exclaimed, in the words of a poet, who was his favourite author,

“ Of a truth that ancient poet lies

“ Who says that the graces are but three ;

“ For in each of those delightful eyes

“ I more than a thousand graces see.”

SHE

SHE was simply clad, but an air of dignity adorned her so much in despite of her drefs, that she appeared at least a Princess in disguise ! and as our adventurer was fond of poetry and acquainted with the best poets in Cashmeer, he exclaimed,

- “ Her form is fresher than the morning rose
 “ When the dew wets its leaves ; unstain’d and pure
 “ As is the lily and the mountain snow.
 “ ————— A native grace,
 “ Sits fair proportion’d on her polish’d limbs
 “ Veil’d in a simple robe ; for loveliness
 “ Needs not the foreign aid of ornament ;
 “ But is when unadorn’d adorn’d the most.
 “ Thoughtless of beauty, she is beauty’s self,
 “ Recluse among the woods.”

As she was approaching the rivulet, he observed her three times from the head to the feet, and three times he protested to himself, that he never saw such pretty feet, nor so many charms, as in the delightful figure which those pretty feet supported.

APPREHENSIVE of appearing to look at her too much, he turned away his eyes. Having filled a pitcher, she sat down on the banks of the rivulet, clasped her hands together, fixed her eyes absorbed in melancholy on the running stream, and after uttering several deep sighs, "No!" she exclaimed, "never creature was so unhappy as I am; alas! since I am convinced that my calamities will never cease, why do I continue to live!"—Then after a moment's reflection, she burst into tears, and cried out, "Happy birds, who have nothing to dread but the elements, mankind, and the other birds; though you are continually at war, yet in the midst of all your alarms, you enjoy at least your liberty; and are not condemned to the continual fight of the most frightful person

"person in the world." On uttering these words, she again burst into tears, and taking up the pitcher, returned from whence she came.

HE had attentively examined her without being observed. He found her person so delightful, that he concluded from her air and mein that she had a good natural understanding, an agreeable temper, sincerity of heart, and a mind incapable of meanness. It must be confessed that he discovered a great number of excellent qualities in a short space of time ; and yet he was not mistaken : nor had he any occasion to conjecture who she was.

HE passed the whole day in the wood ; and at the approach of darkness he ventured to quit his retreat.

AFTER rambling some time without
C 6 knowing

knowing where he was, a sudden gleam of light shooting through the darkness, discovered a large house of one story at the distance of about two hundred paces.

THE light disappearing almost in the same moment, he groped his way towards the house, which he well knew must be that of the Sorcerers, and climbed as softly as he could to the top, which was thatched.

HAVING listened some time without hearing any thing, he gently contrived to make a small aperture in the straw, and saw that frightful Sorcerers, Old Mother Long Tooth, employed in throwing herbs and roots into a large cauldron, suspended over the fire ; she muttered at the same time many barbarous expressions, and occasionally stirred the contents with a large tooth, which projected from her mouth at least two yards.

AFTER having stirred the cauldron in
this

this manner several times, she threw in three toads and five bats; and exclaimed,

"Double double toil and trouble

"Fire burn and cauldron bubble."

THEN pouring something from a phial, she added,

"I cool it with a dead man's blood,

"Let the charm be firm and good;

"Restore my lover to his charms,

"And bring him plumeless to my arms."

"HER lover!" said he, "surely it must
"be one of those monsters who endea-
"voured to stop me in the forest."

MEANWHILE the Sorcerers dipped occasionally into the cauldron the middle finger of her left hand, which was provided with a nail almost as long as her tooth, in order to taste the ingredients if they were properly blended together, and repeatedly exclaimed,

"Double double toil and trouble

"Fire burn and cauldron bubble."

NEAR

NEAR the chimney sat Master Long Tooth, a little monster so ugly and deformed, that he was more horrible than his mother; and the beautiful creature, whom *Fiddlestick* had seen in the wood, was kneeling down, and washing with her snowy arms and delicate hands the most dirty and nasty feet that ever were washed by the hands of a pretty woman.

MOTHER Long Tooth perceiving, that the poor girl wept, lifted up her tooth, and looking at her sideways, exclaimed, "Wretched creature, how dare you serve
" with so bad a grace him who in two
" day's time will be your husband, instead
" of thanking Heaven that you are to be
" my daughter-in-law, and are to enjoy
" the supreme happiness of having such a
" husband as my charming son."

Fiddlestick sympathised with the suffering

fering of the lovely girl, could not help shuddering at these words, and immediately exclaimed to himself,

“ What pity that so delicate a form
 “ By beauty kindled, and harmonious shaped,
 “ Where sense sincere and goodness seem to dwell,
 “ Should be devoted to the rude embrace
 “ Of that indecent clown.”

At the conclusion of this exclamation he descended instantly from the roof, for fear of being surpris'd, and regained the wood, where he pass'd the remainder of the night, reflecting on what he had seen, and meditating on the enterprise he was about to execute.

EARLY in the morning the lovely girl returned to the banks of the rivulet, and she returned with all her charms, and all her sorrow, carrying in her hands the dirty linen of the little monster, which she wash'd in the running stream, augmenting

menting the waters with the tears which flowed copiously from her lovely eyes.

THIS second meeting on the banks of the same rivulet increased his compassion for her, and made him feel that he should soon stand in need of her's.

HE now thought it was time to discover himself; and in order to engage her attention he drew out a flute, and began playing an affecting air. Struck with surprise she turned her eyes towards him, and perceived that his appearance did not correspond with his style of playing.

ON observing that she listened to him, he affected to follow his goats, which were at some distance, and when he ceased playing "No" she cried out, "the harmony of Sonora is not half so agreeable." How happy "she added, "is
" that

“ that poor boy who passes his life in
 “ tending goats : ragged as he is, I fin-
 “ cerely wish I could change conditions
 “ with him.”

“ BUT what business has he so near this
 “ detestable spot, since he can drive his
 “ wretched flock at a greater distance ?
 “ What business has he so near the abode
 “ of Mother Long Tooth ?”—“ He is
 “ come to deliver you most beautiful
 “ *May-flower*,” exclaimed he, and without
 giving her time to be surprised, or even to
 faint away, as she seemed inclined, he ap-
 proached her, and said, “ Yes I will deliver
 “ you, or I will perish in the attempt.”—
 “ Alas !” returned she, looking at him with
 attention, “ poor wretch as thou art, thou
 “ canst die indeed, but thou canst not
 “ save me from the slavery to which I am
 “ doomed. You now see me engaged in
 “ the

" the most disgusting occupation : yet I
 " would willingly thus pass the rest of my
 " life, if I were not threatened with a still
 " more dreadful misfortune : I shall be
 " compelled to marry the son of Mother
 " Long Tooth."

" I know that," answered *Fiddlestick*,
 " and I will deliver you."

May-flower again looked at a man
 who spoke with such confidence, and
 seemed to know every thing : and he who
 had only enjoyed the pleasure of looking
 without being looked at, was more
 charmed than ever ; and preferred her
 to all the women he had ever seen.

RECOLLECTING his disguise, he took
 the plaister from his eye, that he might
 appear less disfigured ; and although she
 did not seem much struck with his coun-
 tenance, yet she listened with attention to
 what

what he had to say. He told her, " He
 " was not what he appeared, that he was
 " come to carry off the Luminous Hat
 " and Sonora: that he had undertaken
 " all these things for the service of a
 " Princess who is esteemed one of the
 " wonders of the world, but that he now
 " began to think no more of her;" for,
 added he, " How can I think of her,
 " when I have seen the charming *May-*
 " *flower*; she will henceforth be the ob-
 " ject of all my enterprizes."

May-flower did not appear offended
 with this declaration, nor displeased at the
 sacrifice; and during the time that she
 continued, *Fiddlestick* was sufficiently con-
 vinced that he had formed a true opinion
 of her understanding and sentiments.
 He entreated her to confide in him, and
 to consent to the proposal of a man, who
 would

would die two or three hundred thousand deaths rather than offend her.

HE then made himself acquainted with the situation of Sonora's stable ; he learned that the door was never locked, from a persuasion, that no one would attempt to steal a mare, who did not make the least motion without being heard. He was perfectly satisfied with this information, and as she could not venture to be absent any longer, they separated, and he followed her with his eyes till she was out of his sight.

HE then recommended himself seriously to Fortune, who had not yet abandoned him, and placed his whole confidence in his own address and resolution. He felt that he was inspired, concluded that his passion for *May-flower* was the cause of his inspiration, and was determined to be
guided

guided by the impulse of the moment. Observing at a small distance some boys attempting to catch birds, he whistled and drew them to him ; and, without knowing why, he took away their bird-lime.

At the approach of night he went towards the stable of Sonora, carrying the bag of salt, and the bird-lime he had taken from the boys. Fine preparations for an enterprise like his ! Fit arms to preserve him from the dreadful power of the Sorcerers whom he was going to spoil of all her treasures !

CONDUCTED by a melodious sound he went strait to Sonora, and arrived just as she had laid down. She was a most beautiful as well as a most quiet animal ; and suffered him to caress and stroke her without attempting to move a hair ; for she was so pleased with his appearance, that

that she would have sacrificed her life in his favour; having been accustomed to see only Master Long Tooth, who often ill treated her, and who was so ugly, that she had almost rather starve than be fed by his hands.

FINDING her so docile, he filled each of the little bells with dung, and closed the apertures with the bird-lime; he had scarcely finished the last bell, before Sonora rose up and shook herself in order to try if all was silent about her.

HAVING reiterated his careffes, he saddled and bridled her, and leaving her in the stable, went immediately to the house of Mother Long Tooth, and ascended the roof in the same manner, with the same precautions as before, carrying with him the bag of salt, but without knowing for what reason. Through the aperture in the
roof

roof he observed the same objects as before, but *May-flower* in a still more wretched situation. The little Monster after having attempted to take some liberties, was scolding her for her coyness in rejecting his caresses. Old Mother Long Tooth compelled her to sit down by the side of the chimney; and her son stretching himself along on the ground placed his head on her lap, and was soon heard to snore. The unfortunate *May-flower* dared not shew any signs of that sorrow with which she was impressed; the tears stole from her eyes, and *Fiddlestick* sympathised in all her afflictions. Meanwhile the Old Hag hovered over the cauldron, stirred the contents even to the bottom, with her long tooth, threw in from time to time several frogs, toads, and bats, dipped into the
cauldron

cauldron the finger which was provided with a nail almost as long as her tooth, for the purpose of tasting the contents, and repeated the lines

"Double double toil and trouble,

"Fire burn and cauldron bubble."

At that moment *Fiddlestick* recollected his little bag of salt which he had always carried in his hand without knowing why, and emptied it down the chimney into the cauldron. Mother Long Tooth having tasted the contents, shuddered with horror; on tasting a second time she found the charm spoilt, and uttered such a dreadful shriek as would have drowned the cries of fifteen thousand cat-calls. She instantly took the cauldron from the fire, and struck *May-flower*, who, tottering with the blow, awakened the little monster, and received another

another from him for having disturbed his snoring.

Fiddlestick, who could not have suffered more if he had received fifty blows, or if twenty swords had been run through his body at the same instant, was inflamed with anger, and was on the point of committing some imprudent act of vengeance, when he heard Mother Long Tooth praise her son for his dauntless resolution in striking *May-flower*, and ordered him to fetch some water from the rivulet, "Go my little charmer," she said; "that wretch shall wear my hat to give you light: I would send you alone, but the hat has no virtue except on the head of a maiden, and she who wears it must not carry any thing else. Go my son, take the pitcher and do not fear hobgoblins, they will not venture to

D

" approach

“ approach you whilst the hat shines, and
 “ I promise that you shall espouse that
 “ wretched creature as soon as you re-
 “ turn.”

“ I consent,” said *Fiddlestick*, as he was descending from the roof, “ provided it is not till her return;” but he took care not to say this too loud; and running speedily, he placed himself between the house and the rivulet.

HE had scarcely arrived before every place seemed as if enlightened by the mid-day sun, and the charming *May-flower* was the first object which caught his attention; appearing so brilliant notwithstanding the splendour of the hat, as if all the light had issued from her eyes. Master Long Tooth who accompanied her, dragged himself along with much difficulty under the weight of the pitcher: he was
 not

not only hump backed, but as bandy legged as a turnspit; and so short, that after having ineffectually endeavoured to take hold of *May-flower's* arm, he could reach no higher than her pocket, to which he clung and dragged himself along. As to *May-flower*, she took as large strides as she could in hopes of getting rid of him; her heart beat strong between hope and fear, and at the first sight of *Fiddlestick* she trembled, blushed, and grew pale twenty times in a moment. What effect these emotions had upon her lover I never learned; but this much is certain, that he instantly seized the little monster, covered his head with an handkerchief, and taking him up in his arms, carried him as if he had been a lap dog, and hastened to the stable.

HAVING briefly explained his intention

to *May-flower*, she was so confounded that she approved his design without understanding what she said. "I am terribly alarmed," she added, "and my apprehensions are no longer for myself: you have already done so much, that I have every reason to place my whole confidence in you; let us escape with all speed, since that alone can deliver us. But what will you do with this little monster?" "I will immediately flea him alive," he replied, "as a punishment due to him for his presumption in thinking of marrying you, and for the blow which he gave you."

But the generous *May-flower*, who abhorred all other cruelties but those with which hard hearted fair ones treat their affectionate lovers, interceded for the miserable wretch. "Do not" said *Fiddlestick*,
 "be

"be alarmed; all the punishment which
 "I will inflict upon him will not be very
 "severe. You will ever oblige me by
 "leaving him some trifle as a remem-
 "brance of you; and since he now loses
 "all hopes of having you for his wife,
 "suffer him to wear your head-dress, till
 "he again enjoys the honour of seeing
 "you."

May-flower did not understand what he
 meant, but *Fiddlestick* taking off her cap,
 placed it on Master Long Tooth's head,
 who looked still more horrible in so fan-
 tastical a head-dress; but having heard
 the threat of being fleaed alive, he thought
 himself extremely fortunate, when instead
 of finding the knife applied to his skin, he
 found his mistress's cap placed on his
 head.

But the ceremony did not end in dres-

ing his head, for *Fiddlestick* bound his hands and legs together, and stopping his mouth with hay to prevent his crying out or starving, he covered his whole body with hay, and placed him in such a manner that any one who entered the stable could only see the back part of his head covered with an elegant cap.

Having finished this ceremony, he caressed and mounted Sonora, and took up *May-flower* behind him; off galloped Sonora as if she had been long used to carry double, and vied in swiftness with the wind. She was so gentle, that he threw the bridle upon her neck, and when she had galloped about an hour, as he computed, at the rate of above a hundred miles, he thought it high time to stop and give her breath.

C H A P. III.

How Fiddlestick informs May-flower who she is, and who he is—and how he tells her a long story of himself and his Brother Phœnix—and how he relates his own Birth, Parentage, Education, Travels, Adventures of the enchanted Palace, Starlings and Rook; and why he was induced to take the name of Fiddlestick,—and how he goes to the Court of Cashmeer and sees Brilliant,—and how May-flower is jealous of Brilliant, and how Fiddlestick cures that jealousy—and how he sees her asleep, and writes verses upon her; and how May-flower is hungry, and how Fiddlestick roasts a Hare and a brace of

*Partridges for May-flower's supper;
and how he cannot find Serena's Palace;
and how he conveys May-flower into
Cashmeer.*

FIDDLESTICK was now the happiest man in the world: he had completed so perilous an adventure; he was delivered from all apprehensions; and the person whom he loved and whom he had delivered from a situation worse than death, was in his arms and not offended: blessed situation for a man, who having undertaken an enterprize for the sake of glory, had completed it for the sake of love. He now felt no other apprehension than that of not pleasing her whom he adored: and that one apprehension was sufficient to alarm him. He well knew that there was nothing captivating in his person, and
that

that his only hopes were founded on the resources of his understanding, and the sincerity of his attachment. Each sight of the charming *May-flower* redoubled his passion, which was not likely to be diminished by his holding her in his arms, though with infinite respect and delicacy.

“ BEAUTIFUL *May-flower*,” he said to her, perceiving that she still trembled; “ be not alarmed, you have no longer “ occasion to fear mother Long Tooth; “ and you need be under no apprehen- “ sion from me, whose sentiments to- “ wards you are as respectable as they “ are honourable. I well know all your “ merit: and though I may venture to “ say, that no one knows it better; yet “ I dare not add, that I feel it to the “ very bottom of my heart; and yet it

“ would be something very extraordi-
 “ nary, if it were not so. Some very
 “ particular reasons compelled me to quit
 “ my native country; but at my depar-
 “ ture I formed no project, and did not
 “ even know what I was going in search
 “ of: now I too well know, that you
 “ were that object of my researches, and
 “ I humbly intreat you to listen to a
 “ short tale, which may amuse a few
 “ moments.”

May-flower not knowing how to an-
 swer all these fine speeches, reclined
 gently towards him as if to rest herself:
 he approved of that mode of answering,
 and without expecting any other, thus
 continued:

“ I AM son of a prince whose domi-
 “ nions were very small, but in return
 “ whose

“ whose subjects were rich, contented,
“ and faithful.

“ I HAD a twin brother, but God knows
“ what is become of him. We were only
“ six years of age, when my father took
“ us apart, and addressing us as if we had
“ attained the use of reason—“ My chil-
“ dren,” he said, “ as you are twins, it is
“ uncertain which of you ought to suc-
“ ceed by right of primogeniture: but
“ as my dominions are too small to be di-
“ vided, I expect that one of you should
“ relinquish his right in favour of the
“ other; and to the end that he who
“ gives up his right need not repent, I
“ have two gifts in my power, either of
“ which will be able to make your for-
“ tunes; and these are Beauty and Under-
“ standing. But as it is necessary, that

“ these gifts should be separated, let each
 “ chuse which best pleases him.

“ WE answered instantly, without hesi-
 “ tation. I chose Understanding, my
 “ brother chose Beauty; and my father
 “ tenderly embracing us, assured us, that
 “ in due time, we should have what we
 “ had respectively chosen.

“ MY brother's name is Phoenix, and
 “ mine Chaffinch; for my father had such
 “ a passion for birds, that he called us by
 “ these names, and if he had been blessed
 “ with more children, he would have cal-
 “ led them Eagles, or Peacocks, or
 “ Blackbirds, or Starlings, or Nightin-
 “ gales, or Larks.

“ ANOTHER passion of my good father
 “ was, that of being treated with the
 “ greatest respect by his children, and to
 “ be addressed by them with, *Sir, please*
 “ *your*

“ *your highness*, and such like jargon,
 “ which I could never submit to. But
 “ Phoenix was particularly attentive to
 “ that sort of etiquette, treated him with
 “ the greatest ceremony, and gave him
 “ more titles than he expected; and this
 “ was probably the reason why my father
 “ kept his word with him better than with
 “ me. For at the age of eighteen he was
 “ the most beautiful creature that ever
 “ was seen, at least of our sex.

“ As for me, although I was daily flat-
 “ tered with encomiums on my under-
 “ standing, yet I considered all those fine
 “ speeches as nothing more than what was
 “ said to all children, whose parents are
 “ continually pestering their friends with
 “ their children’s *bon mots*; and I felt that
 “ I had just sufficient understanding to
 “ know that I was no Solomon.

“ ALTHOUGH

" ALTHOUGH my brother's pursuits
 " and inclinations were different from
 " mine, yet no two brothers ever felt
 " greater affection than we did for each
 " other. Phoenix thought of nothing but
 " adorning himself and captivating the
 " fair : whilst I passed my time in reading
 " all the books, both good, bad, and in-
 " different, which I could lay my hands
 " upon.

" I soon distinguished the good from
 " the bad, and finding myself reduced to
 " a very small number, I was displeased
 " at my squeamishness which lessened my
 " amusement in reading.

" AT length my father and mother both
 " died, and in dying seemed as contented
 " as people can be when they die ; on
 " leaving their two sons so friendly and
 " affectionate to each other.

" OUR

" OUR parents' funerals were no sooner
 " performed, which my brother took care
 " should be as sumptuous as became a
 " prince, than we differed in opinion for
 " the first time of our lives; but our dis-
 " pute, which was very obstinately car-
 " ried on, was only which of us should
 " yield his right of inheritance in favour
 " of the other. Phœnix importunately
 " insisted, that as I was more fit to govern,
 " I ought to succeed, and in regard to
 " himself, he added, that with his figure
 " and appearance, thank Heaven, he had
 " no doubt of making his fortune in any
 " part of the world.

" IN vain I urged many strong reasons
 " to induce him to take possession of our
 " small principality, but I could not pre-
 " vail; and so after many long debates,
 " we came to an agreement, that we
 " should

“ should each of us set forward on the
 “ same day to seek our fortune separately,
 “ on condition, that he who should first
 “ procure an establishment, should imme-
 “ diately inform the other, who was to
 “ return and put himself in possession of
 “ our common inheritance.

“ WE appointed confidential ministers
 “ to govern in our absence; Phoenix took
 “ his departure with all his charms; and
 “ I with the small portion of sense which
 “ had fallen to my share.

“ WE took different routes. I tra-
 “ versed various countries without finding
 “ any opportunity of raising myself to any
 “ considerably good fortune. I did not
 “ omit obtaining information on all points
 “ which appeared worthy of my curiosity;
 “ I learned many secrets of nature, and
 “ remarked with attention the most re-
 “ markable

“ markable particulars in every country
 “ through which I travelled : but my cu-
 “ riosity was not yet satisfied.

“ HAVING at length entered the king-
 “ dom of Circassia, which I had often
 “ heard mentioned as the country of beau-
 “ tiful women, I was astonished to find,
 “ that I had traversed it almost from one
 “ extremity to the other without finding
 “ one, who even excited my admiration.
 “ I imputed this circumstance to the
 “ change of government, which had just
 “ taken place in that kingdom ; and I
 “ thought that the intestine troubles might
 “ have dispersed those beauties which,
 “ from what I had heard, I expected to
 “ meet in every corner.

“ ONE day walking along the banks of
 “ a river which watered a large plain, I
 “ observed on the other side a superb
 “ building

“ building, which appeared like the pa-
 “ lace of some great sovereign. On en-
 “ tering I found the inside dull, and the
 “ inhabitants of a melancholy air. I no-
 “ ticed indeed more beautiful women than
 “ I had hitherto seen in all Circassia, but
 “ they were extremely shy; those who
 “ observed me at a distance fled away;
 “ while those who could not avoid me,
 “ made no return to my bows or civili-
 “ ties, but turned away their heads with-
 “ out deigning to look at me.

“ IN the same manner I traversed se-
 “ veral galleries without meeting with
 “ any other objects but these inanimate
 “ beauties, who appeared like so many
 “ statues; when I heard some sudden
 “ bursts of laughter, which seemed to issue
 “ from an apartment at the extremity of
 “ the gallery; and was delighted to find,
 “ that

" that the same dreadful melancholy, to
 " which I had hitherto been a witness, did
 " not reign in every part of this vast pa-
 " lace. I entered the apartment from
 " which those bursts of laughter continued
 " to issue, and saw four magpies sitting
 " round a table and playing at cards.

" THEY did not seem startled at my
 " presence, on the contrary after drop-
 " ping several curtsies, they continued
 " their game, which I, who know all the
 " games that are played on the cards, did
 " not comprehend; near them sat a rook
 " of a very solemn and decent deport-
 " ment, in an armed chair, knotting, and
 " looking at the game.

" I must confess I was rather surpris'd
 " at so unexpected a sight, nor could I
 " conjecture what could be the meaning
 " of this enchantment. Meanwhile the
 " four

“ four magpies shuffled, cut and dealt, as
 “ if they had never done any thing else in
 “ their lives. While I was looking on
 “ with the profoundest attention, one of
 “ the magpies heaping the cards upon
 “ each other, suddenly threw them upon
 “ the table as if in a transport of joy, and
 “ cried out with a loud voice, *Fiddlestick !*
 “ *Fiddlestick ! Fiddlestick !*

“ THE other magpies repeated *Fiddle-*
 “ *stick* ; even the rook, who sat knotting in
 “ the armed chair, cried out *Fiddlestick* ;
 “ and the whole company instantly burst
 “ into fits of laughter so loud and shrill,
 “ that my ears were deafened with the
 “ sound. I accordingly quitted the a-
 “ partment ; and the melancholy castle ;
 “ and shortly afterwards departed from
 “ the kingdom of Circassia, without meet-
 “ ing with any other adventure.

“ ABOUT

" ABOUT this time the report of the
 " charms of Princess Brilliant began to be
 " spread abroad; and though I did not
 " entirely give credit to all the wonderful
 " accounts, yet my curiosity was piqued,
 " and notwithstanding the danger which
 " threatened all those who looked upon
 " her, I resolved to go myself, and exa-
 " mine if the report was true; particular-
 " ly as I had long earnestly desired to visit
 " the fortunate kingdom of Cashmeer.

" I DETERMINED at all events to change
 " my name: whether this resolution arose
 " from the general practice among knights
 " errants, who always conceal their real
 " names; or because that of Chaffinch did
 " not appear sufficiently noble, I cannot
 " determine, but the fact is that I actually
 " changed my name; and as the adven-
 " ture of the magpies still haunted me, I
 " assumed

“assumed that of *Fiddlestick*.” “*Fiddlestick!*” replied *May-flower*, “Yes, *Fiddlestick*,” replied he; “and what is singularly odd in the construction of that word; it seems no one can hear it without immediately repeating it, as you have just done.

“ON approaching the frontiers of Cashmeer, I passed near the enchanted habitation of the fairy *Serena*, and I must confess, that the desire of paying my respects to a person, whom a supernatural knowledge acquired by a long course of study has rendered so illustrious, was as great an inducement to visit Cashmeer, as the report of *Brilliant’s* beauty. Yet the difficulty of finding the enchanted castle justly alarmed me, who was not apt to be alarmed. For I well knew, that among thousand and ten
“thousand

" thousand mortals, who had endeavoured
 " to find it, few had succeeded. For-
 " tune, however, or rather the favours of
 " Serena, assisted me; and I was admitted
 " into her presence.

" I WILL not fatigue you with a parti-
 " cular description of that delightful place,
 " the beauty of which cannot be conceiv-
 " ed. I will only add, that the residence
 " of Serena is as much superior to the
 " kingdom of Cashmeer, as the kingdom
 " of Cashmeer is superior to the rest of
 " the world. Of the little time I was
 " permitted to pass with Serena was of
 " far more service to me than the gift of
 " understanding which I had received
 " from my father; and at my departure
 " she gave me hopes of her protection,
 " which I by no means deserved. In-
 " deed I imputed my success to my ex-
 " tremely

"treme respect for Serena, and to the
 "fortunate name of *Fiddlestick*; and I
 "quitted her with the resolution of ren-
 "dering myself as much as possible, wor-
 "thy of that protection, which she gave
 "me hopes of receiving, and of that name
 "which I had just assumed.

"On my arrival at the capital of Cash-
 "meer, I did not immediately make
 "my appearance at court. I soon disco-
 "vered the character of the good Caliph;
 "easiness of temper, fondness for etiquette,
 "dislike of business and a habit of being
 "governed. His first minister, who go-
 "verned him, was a man of mean capacity
 "but without presumption and haughti-
 "ness; full of attention and affability to
 "all who approached him. His wife had
 "a better understanding, and was still
 "more affable than her husband. I en-
 "tered

“tered into her service in the capacity of
 “a Squire, and soon perceived that I did
 “not displease her.” “What sort of beauty
 “was she?” interrupted *May-flower*, “Of
 “those sorts (replied he,) which are made
 “every day as the owner pleases,” and
 continued his relation.

“As the minister was very thick head-
 “ed, I was considered by him as a man of
 “great knowledge and address; and in
 “consequence of that favourable opinion,
 “I was employed to find out a remedy
 “against the depredations of the Princess’s
 “eyes.”

He then related the manner which he
 contrived to take her portrait. “You
 “have then often looked at her?” said
May-flower—“Yes, (replied he), as often
 “as I chose, and as I have just informed
 “you, without the smallest danger.” “Did

E

“you

“you find her,” said *May-flower*, “as
 “wonderfully handsome as she is reported
 “to be?” “O yes,” returned he, “a
 “thousand times handsomer.” “Doubt-
 “less there is no occasion to ask you,”
 added *May-flower*, “if you were passio-
 “nately in love with her; but tell me I
 “beseech you the truth?” He did not
 conceal a tittle of what had passed between
 him and the Princess; not even the assu-
 rance she had given him, that she would
 espouse him if he succeeded in his adven-
 ture.

ON hearing this account, *May-flower*
 removed his arms with which he supported
 her, and sat upright instead of reclining
 herself towards him as before; *Fiddlestick*
 perfectly well knew the meaning of this
 change of attitude; but affected not to
 perceive it. “I do not know,” he said,
 “what

" what happy influence of stars had pre-
 " disposed the Princess in my favour; but
 " I soon felt, that my person and figure
 " were not worthy of her; and still less
 " so the sentiments of my heart. For I
 " have since been convinced that the love
 " which I seemed to feel for her, was
 " merely admiration. Every instant of
 " absence insensibly effaced the remem-
 " brance of her, and since the first mo-
 " ment I saw you, I have totally forgot
 " her."

HE ceased speaking, and *May-flower*
 made no answer, but reclined herself to-
 wards him as she did before, and placed
 her hands upon his, which he again threw
 around her waist to support her. In or-
 der to understand these changes of atti-
 tude, the reader will recollect that they

were all this while sitting on the back of Sonora.

MORNING was now beginning to dawn: and *Fiddlestick* taking the Luminous Hat from *May-flower* as well for the purpose of easing her of the burden, as that it might not eclipse the rising sun; they observed the first rays of that glorious luminary rising in the east: and were enjoying the freshness of the morning, when they were suddenly roused from their delightful reverie by the neighing of Sonora. *May-flower* started, and trembling from head to foot, exclaimed, "We are ruined; "Mother Long Tooth is pursuing us." At these words *Fiddlestick* turned his head, and observed the horrid Old Hag mounted on a crimson unicorn, followed by two tigers of an enormous size.

Fiddlestick endeavoured to comfort
May-

May-flower by telling her, that Sonora galloped so fast as rendered it impossible for Mother Long Tooth to overtake them, and immediately threw the reins upon her neck, but Sonora would not stir; and notwithstanding all his efforts of whipping and spurring, she continued immoveable.

MEANWHILE the Sorcerers approaching within fifty paces, *May-flower* fainted away in his arms, and continued in a swoon, notwithstanding all his protestations that while a drop of blood remained in his veins, he would protect her from falling into the hands of Mother Long Tooth.

THE Old Hag advancing nearer and nearer, *Fiddlestick* finding all his efforts with Sonora ineffectual, began to caress and flatter her: "What then, my good
" Sonora, will you suffer your charming
" mistress to fall into the hands of that

“terrible Old Hag! and did you set off
 “with so good a grace only to betray us
 “at last!” But his entreaties were as ineffectual as his former efforts; and Mother Long Tooth had advanced within twenty paces, when Sonora moved her left ear three times; he without loss of time put one of his left fingers into her left ear, and finding a small stone threw it over his left shoulder: instantly a wall sprung up between them and the Sorcerers; it was only sixty feet high; but it was so long that neither the beginning nor end was visible.

May-flower recovered from her swoon; *Fiddlestick* thanked Heaven, and Sonora galloped off as swift as a flash of lightning.

THEY had already lost sight of the wall, and *Fiddlestick* now esteeming *May-flower*

in perfect security, was going to address her, when Sonora suddenly stopped. On turning his head he observed Mother Long Tooth, pursuing them with the same equipage and the same fury as before. "Is there no wall" he exclaimed, "which can save us from her unicorn, her tigers, her long tooth and her terrible nail!" During this exclamation, *May-flower* again fainted away, and Sonora more and more restive seemed as if nailed to the ground. Yet *Fiddlestick* did not lose his courage, but began caressing and flattering Sonora in a more tender and affecting manner than before. "Alas!" he said, "most virtuous Sonora, I perceive that the Old Hag has enchanted you, and the moment that she sees you, that you are no longer able to stir. If this was not true, I would venture to

" lay a wager, that having so good a heart
 " as you have, you would rather die than
 " not save your dear mistress, the charm-
 " ing *May-flower*; but as I perceive from
 " your extreme sorrow that you can no
 " longer give us any assistance, I request
 " only one favour; it is to deliver the
 " charming *May-flower*. I will dismount
 " and oppose myself to Mother Long
 " Tooth, her tigers, her tooth, and her
 " nail; perhaps Fortune will second my
 " courage; do you gallop off with *May-*
 " *flower*, while the Old Hag is fixing her
 " eyes on me. Adieu, my good Sonora,
 " deliver *May-flower*, do not abandon her,
 " I conjure you; and if you never see
 " me again, bring to her recollection the
 " man who most tenderly loved her."

On saying these words he was going to
 dismount,

dismount, but *May-flower* pressed his hands and prevented him. As to Sonora,

“ The wretched animal heav’d forth such groans,
 “ That their discharge did stretch her leathern coat,
 “ Almost to bursting; and the big round tears,
 “ Cours’d one another down her innocent nose
 “ In piteous chace.”

BUT just as Mother Long Tooth approached, and was preparing to let loose her tigers, Sonora moved her right ear six times. *Fiddlestick* put in the middle finger of his right hand, and finding a drop of water, he threw it over his right shoulder; this drop of water had no sooner touched the ground, than it swelled into a river as broad as an arm of the sea, and as rapid as an Alpine torrent. It spread itself on the side where Mother Long Tooth was pursuing, and rushed with such sudden impetuosity, that the Old

Hag, her unicorn, and her tigers narrowly escaped drowning.

THUS they were a second time delivered from the vengeance of the cruel Sorcerers; and *Fiddlestick* now trusted that this was the last alarm: the kind hearted Sonora seemed to share his joy, and galloped off with inconceivable swiftness, till *Fiddlestick* bethought himself that it was necessary to inform her of the route which he intended to follow. He gently checked her, and throwing the bridle on her neck, "Sonora," he said, "I well know that you never miss your way, we are desirous to go to the kingdom of Cashmeer; it is on one side entirely bounded by mountains and precipices. Conduct us, I beseech you, on that side where Serena has fixed her habitation?" "But why to the kingdom of Cashmeer?" exclaimed

claimed *May-flower*, "is not that the
 "country of the Princess Brilliant?" "It
 "is the kingdom of her father," replied
 he, "and to him I promised to bring the
 "spoils of Mother Long Tooth as de-
 manded by Serena."

"AND did you not assure me," return-
 ed *May-flower* somewhat troubled, "that
 "although you undertook that dangerous
 "enterprise for the sake of Brilliant, yet
 "that in carrying it into execution, you
 "only thought of delivering me! What
 "madness in me to flatter myself for a
 "moment, that you could ever forget the
 "most beautiful person in the world, for
 "the favours of such a creature as *May-
 flower*. Why then did you say so since
 "you were never really of that opinion!
 "Ah! *Fiddlestick*," exclaimed she, let-
 ting fall some tears, "I am now convinc-

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"ed,

“ ed, that your sole impatience arises from
 “ a desire of appearing before those beau-
 “ tiful eyes, which still charm you, load-
 “ ed with the spoils which you promised
 “ her, and bringing the unhappy *May-*
 “ *flower* in triumph. If you had not de-
 “ ceived me, you would never go in search
 “ of her, after having found that object,
 “ which you just seemed so apprehensive
 “ of losing. For what prevents you from
 “ conveying me to your native country?
 “ Why do you make me feel, that there
 “ are evils greater than those from which
 “ you have just delivered me! If you had
 “ not flattered me with hopes which you
 “ never meant to realize, my heart at ease
 “ would not consider as the greatest mis-
 “ fortune upon earth, that of being sacri-
 “ ficed to the Princess Brilliant; and she
 “ will love you, alas, but too much, with-
 “ out

“out this new proof of your attachment
 “to her.”

Fiddlestick not less grieved at her affliction, than delighted at the cause of her apprehensions, exclaimed with transport; “Charming *May-flower*, I have not
 “deceived you in assuring you, that I exposed myself only for you, and that you
 “would see me prefer death in your fight,
 “rather than think of sacrificing you to
 “Brilliant. The first sight of you drove
 “her instantly from my heart; and every
 “moment increases my affection for you.
 “Your expressions, which so well prove
 “the sincerity and delicacy of your sentiments, have found their way to the very
 “bottom of my soul. I could willingly
 “have perished to save you; judge then,
 “if I am desirous of living for any other:
 “be tranquil then and composed, and
 “permit

" permit me to keep my promise, for I
 " should be unworthy of you, if I should
 " break my word. Be also assured that
 " we cannot find security from the venge-
 " ance of Mother Long Tooth in any
 " other place than in the kingdom of
 " Cashmeer; and depend upon it, that if
 " I am put to the trial, I will sacrifice, at
 " the risk of a thousand lives, Brilliant to
 " my charming *May-flower*."

THE woman who loves is easily per-
 suaded, and believes what she wishes to
 believe. *Fiddlestick* had opened his heart
 with too much sincerity not to clear up all
 her doubts and take away all her alarms.
 He no sooner perceived that she was con-
 vinced, than he gave the reins to Sonora,
 who turning suddenly to the right galloped
 away so as scarcely to touch the earth, re-
 alizing

alizing the poetical description of Camilla.

*“ When swift Camilla scours the plain,
“ Flies o’er the unbending corn and skims along the main.*

IN less than an hour they arrived at the foot of a mountain which was the boundary of Cashmeer, and which would have been inaccessible to any other animal but Sonora, who ascended it with as much ease as if she had been traversing a plain, and without in the least fatiguing her riders.

ON reaching the summit, the air appeared embalmed with all the perfumes of Arabia, and on whichever side they turned their eyes, the most delightful prospect presented itself in all the charms of the most lovely variety. *May-flower* was glad to repose herself for a moment in this heavenly spot; and while she was lost in the contemplation of the most wonderful prospect which eyes ever beheld, the spirit
of

of jealousy, which insinuates itself every where, infused itself into her mind.

“How then” she exclaimed, “is Brilliant heiress of this delightful country! “Brilliant, herself more precious than “these treasures, and more beautiful than “all those beauties which nature scatter “in such profusion? will she convey them “all to the happy man whom she chuses “for her husband; and is there any one “who will refuse her hand for the sake of “*May-flower*?—Ah! *Fiddlestick*, if it is “true, that your constancy, or rather “your blindness for me, should lead you “to resist the temptation which I so much “dread, comfort me then if it be possible “before we descend into those enchanted “scenes, or suffer me to seek in the midst “of those horrid precipices which we have “just quitted a fate far more supportable
“than

“than that of seeing you united to Brilliant.”

ANOTHER person would perhaps have been disgusted with the return of these alarms, so soon after the solemn professions he had just made to her, but *May-flower* was still more charming than tender and delicate, and *Fiddlestick* was passionately in love with her.

HE was indeed so far from being displeased with these symptoms of jealousy, that he would have been quite delighted with them if they had not infused too much uneasiness and torment into the breast of her whom he so tenderly loved. Anxious therefore to soothe her, “Beautiful *May-flower*,” he cried, “there are only two ways by which I can give you that conviction of my sincerity which you so much desire. The one is to receive

" ceive your hand in the presence of Hea-
 " ven and Earth, and to unite my heart
 " to yours for ever : I take therefore the
 " invifible powers, who are now liftening
 " to us, to witness, that I fhould think
 " myfelf more happy to pafs my life with
 " you in the midft of thofe dreadful rocks
 " and precipices, which we have juft
 " quitted, than reign with Brilliant over
 " thofe fortunate regions, which we are
 " going to vifit. I now therefore offer
 " you my heart and my faith, and will
 " conduct you to our little principality,
 " where probably my brother is by this
 " time returned. But I have already
 " told you, that in every other place ex-
 " cept in the kingdom of Caffmeer, we
 " fhall be expofed to the perfecutions of
 " the cruel Long Tooth ; and even if we
 " fhould be able to efcape from her fury,

" WC

“ we never can expect to be saved from
 “ the just resentment of Serena, to whom
 “ I promised to deliver her daughter, the
 “ Luminous Hat, and Sonora.”

May-flower expressing her surprise,
 “ Yes, beautiful *May-flower*,” he re-
 turned, “ you are the daughter of the
 “ fairy Serena, so renowned both for her
 “ virtue and art : It is my humble opinion
 “ that we should go to her ; that laying at
 “ her feet the treasures which she has de-
 “ manded, and which I have so fortu-
 “ nately taken from the Sorceress, I may
 “ be entitled to demand the most precious
 “ treasure of all, as a recompence for
 “ having executed her commands.”

May-flower ashamed of the jealousy
 which she had just shewn, assented with-
 out hesitation to this proposal ; descended
 into the fertile and delightful plains of the
 king-

kingdom of Cashmeer, and arrived about mid-day on the banks of a rivulet, shaded with orange trees. *Fiddlestick* perceiving that *May-flower* was fatigued, alighted, and lifting her from her seat placed her gently on the grass, by the side of the murmuring stream, and under the shade of the orange trees.

He then unbridled *Sonora*, to give her an opportunity of feeding in the neighbouring pastures; but as he was apprehensive, lest she might remove to too great a distance, he unglued the bells, and took out the dung, that he might find her wherever she was. As soon as she observed that the bells were no longer stopped, she disdained to feed; and capering and prancing with the most graceful and studied motions, filled the air with the most

most delightful harmony that ever struck the ear of a connoisseur.

Fiddlestick having listened with an admiration which almost for a moment made him forget his charming *May-flower*, returned to the place where he had placed her and found her asleep.

WHILE he was admiring with respect and admiration her beauties which

“ Whether sleeping or awake,
“ Shot forth peculiar graces,”

the melody of *Sonora* ravished his ears, and selecting some of his rarest and choicest notes, he composed several couplets in praise of *May-flower* asleep, with that gallantry and tenderness which his sentiments inspired, and adapting the music to the words, formed several new and delightful airs, which surpassed both in sense and harmony, all the songs which he had
ever

ever heard even at the opera. "No," he expressed himself in his couplets, "if
 " I could form a beauty according to my
 " own fancy, I could never conceive in
 " my imagination any thing more amiable
 " or more engaging than what I now see;
 " and in order to touch my heart, it would
 " be only necessary to copy the model of
 " *May-flower*."

FULL of these ideas, and employed in this occupation, *Fiddlestick* did not think of sleep. He thanked Heaven for the profound repose which his divinity enjoyed; but a thought suddenly came into his mind, that after a good sleep she might wish to eat, and wherever he turned his eyes, he saw with pleasure the means of furnishing the finest desert, that was ever brought to table: every tree and every shrub was loaded with a profusion of
 fruit;

fruit ; but as it wisely occurred to him, that whoever is very hungry, seldom begins with fruit, he laid aside his tablets, and the verses he had just been composing, and went in search of Sonora. He did not know why, but he took it into his head, that a creature, which had hitherto essentially served them under the most pressing exigencies, would not withhold her assistance on the present occasion. Having followed the sound of the musical bells, he found her as Orpheus is described, surrounded by all sorts of animals and inanimate objects, who had been attracted by the harmony of her music :

“ As she canter’d around, the oaks mov’d along ;

“ And myrtles and orange trees danc’d to her song.

BUT what was of the greatest importance, a large quantity of game was listening with rapture to the divine melody ; a
hare,

hare, a brace of partridges, and a pheasant, paid dear for their taste and attention; he killed them without the least scruple, lighted a fire of dry sticks, and began roasting his mistress's supper; for although Chaffinch was a Prince, yet *Fiddlestick* was a cook when he set about it: a profession he learned in his travels, and it is certain that he did his best on this occasion.

ON his return, *May-flower* awoke, and a repast was immediately served. She was not insensible to these marks of attention, and while she was regaling herself, listened with great eagerness to his account of the good fortune which supplied him with this repast; and although she had compassion for the poor creatures whom the love of music had been the occasion of destroying, yet her compassion did not spoil her appetite, and she kept eating,

eating, and pitying them at the same time. Having inquired how he had amused himself during the time that she was asleep; he shewed her his tablets—She took them, and though she blushed, yet she read several lines. She told him, that she dared not praise his verses as much as they deserved, because they praised her too much; while he protested, that they did not praise her half enough; and took her charms to witness that he felt a thousand times more, than he could express either in prose or verse.

“*Fiddlestick*,” said she modestly, “if
 “I were desirous of alarming myself with
 “just apprehensions; I would add, that I
 “suspect your sincerity, for I know that
 “I have only charms sufficient not to be
 “ugly: but since you are blinded by
 “your partiality to me, I will take care

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“not

“ not to open your eyes, and enable you
 “ to discover a thousand defects, which I
 “ now for the first time could wish to be
 “ delivered from, that I might become
 “ more worthy of that affection which you
 “ profess for me.”

IN the midst of these and similar protestations, with the detail of which I will not trouble the reader, the night came on; and *May-flower* who was refreshed by her long nap, seemed desirous of continuing their journey.

THE innocence of her own sentiments, and the respectful behaviour of her companion, were fully sufficient to quiet all apprehensions. But as she was extremely delicate in regard to decorum, she thought it would be more proper to continue their journey, than to pass the whole night tête-à-tête on the bare ground; yet she
 felt

felt embarrassed on reflecting, that *Fiddlestick* had not slept; and must stand in need of some repose.

Fiddlestick, however, divined her thoughts, and assuring her that he never could be so ungallant as to sleep in her company, they set out, hoping to arrive at Serena's by break of day.

THE harmony of Sonora surprised and enchanted all whom they met. As they passed through the forests the birds dazzled by the splendour of the Luminous Hat, seemed to salute the rising day, while they poured forth their notes responsive to the delightful music of Sonora. In traversing the villages, the cocks crowed as at the first dawn of the morning, and the peasants were preparing to return to their daily labour. But *May-flower* no sooner took off the Hat, than the night

returned; the cocks ceased crowing, and the peasants again betook themselves to sleep.

At length the real morning made its appearance; and *Fiddlestick* promised his charming mistress, that he would soon present her to her mother: but he could not keep his promise. For although he had twice visited Serena, yet he could not find her habitation; and employed two whole days and nights in ineffectual researches. He was fully convinced, that he had passed it more than an hundred times, and could not conceive why Serena was more inaccessible to him than before; particularly as he now brought her beloved daughter, and was ready to deliver to her the treasures which she had required.

WHILE he was tormenting himself with
dis-

disquieting conjectures, and continuing his vain attempts to discover the abode of Serena, the news of his arrival on the frontiers reached the Caliph; and a Messenger was dispatched to command his immediate attendance at Court.

Fiddlestick could not resist these commands; and he immediately guided Sonora towards the capital of Cashmeer, notwithstanding the alarms of *May-flower*, on approaching a place which was the residence of Brilliant, and the palpitations of her heart, which seemed to forebode some misfortune.

SHE strived all she could to suppress those apprehensions in the presence of her lover; and it required no moderate effort to appear tranquil on approaching a Court, where Brilliant only waited for *Fiddlestick* to put an end to her misfortunes, and

perhaps to offer him her hand as a recompence.

IN the midst of these alarms they arrived, and were received in triumph: acclamations were poured forth on every side, and these acclamations raised the glory of *Fiddlestick* to the skies. It was the general belief, that a man who had so gloriously completed an adventure, begun for the good of the public and the service of the Princess, would bring a remedy for all the calamities with which they had been so long afflicted; and which since his absence had increased to a most dreadful height.

THE good Caliph, having amused himself one day with looking too long at his daughter, chanced to let fall the spectacles, which *Fiddlestick* had left with him for that purpose, and was instantly struck
blind

blind by those beautiful eyes which owed their existence to him. The prime Minister, of all Ministers the most loyal, fell a victim to his chagrin and affection; and his widow had comforted herself with the loss of her husband, in becoming the favourite of the Princess, whom she governed by means of a parrot of most exquisite beauty. Whosoever held this parrot in their hands, might look at the Princess's eyes without the least danger; and the widow was governed by a Negress, who had just made her appearance at Court.

CHAP. IV.

How Fiddlestick is joyfully received by the Caliph and all the Court ; and how he finds the prime Minister dead, and the Caliph blind ; and how Brilliant is in love with a Parrot ; and how Fiddlestick procures a remedy from Serena, and how he softens the conflagration of Brilliant's eyes ; and how he restores the Caliph to sight—and how May-flower is ill, and how Fiddlestick does not know her when he sees her ; and how May-flower wishes Fiddlestick not to see her, because she is afraid he will not know her, and yet is angry with Fiddlestick when he sees her, and does not know her.

ON the arrival of *Fiddlestick*, the council was immediately assembled, and
the

the Caliph who had never seen very clear into affairs, was now still less than ever in a condition to direct them.

BUT he was desirous of embracing him whom he could not see, and still more anxious to confer on him all the honours and rewards which were due to so much merit. Some proposed a title, others a statue: a title *Fiddlestick* refused because it was so common, and a statue because he did not think himself worthy of it; and modestly declined all recompence until his services had produced their effect, and until, by delivering *May-flower*, the Luminous Hat, and Sonora into the hands of Serena, he should return with the much desired remedy.

THE Caliph humbly begged pardon; and it was proposed and carried in the council, that *Fiddlestick* should set off the

next morning with *May-flower*, the Luminous Hat, and Sonora, and that *May-flower* should be lodged that night in the house of the Prime Minister's widow, as the most honourable abode next to the palace: "For," said the Caliph turning to *Fiddlestick*, "you may see by my example the danger of being near Brilliant." *Fiddlestick* himself conducted his charming mistress, the widow received her with complacency, but the negress served her with such attention and address, that *May-flower* was quite captivated. *Fiddlestick* then left her to make the necessary preparations for their departure; but would not go to the palace for fear of exciting her former alarms.

AFTER quickly dispatching his business he returned to *May-flower*, and found her considering the portrait of Brilliant,
with

with a mixed sensation of admiration and uneasiness. He said all that was necessary to quiet her apprehensions, and succeeded by promising that he would depart without seeing the original.

MEANWHILE the negress discovered their mutual inclinations for each other, and straightway acquainted the widow. Now the widow had been revolving in her mind, whether she should honour her former Squire with her hand ; in the struggle between love and pride, love at length obtained the victory ; and as no one ever wants excuses for what they wish to do, she announced her intentions to the negress, adding that notwithstanding the inequality of their conditions, yet, that even a Prime Minister's widow might without shame espouse her Squire, who had performed such glorious actions.

IF I were to endeavour to relate the rage and fury of the widow, when informed by her confidante, that she had thrown away her heart upon a person who was insensible to the high honour, and who had placed his affections on the daughter of Serena, I might as well attempt to describe a storm, or paint a whirlwind. For of all widows, she was the most furious, and of all blacks, her confidante was the most black. And it soon appeared into what hands the wretched *May-flower* had fallen.

SHE was seized during the whole night with the most excruciating pains, which human nature ever endured; and in the morning *Fiddlestick* found her in convulsions, and seemingly past all hopes of recovery.

HE thought no more of his intended
jour-

journey ; no more of the good of the state ; he resigned himself to the excess of his despair, and to the final resolution of staying and dying with *May-flower*.

THE widow rejoiced at the despair of the lover and agonies of her rival ; but the cabinet council were greatly alarmed at the resolution which *Fiddlestick* had taken not to depart ; and the negress at length, who had occasioned the disorder, thought proper to remove it, that *Fiddlestick* might go. *May-flower* was relieved from the pains as suddenly as she had been seized : but such an extreme weakness remained, that finding it impossible to accompany her lover, she entreated him not to resist the importunities of the Caliph and of the whole Court, and to depart alone. He obeyed with regret, determined to make his absence as short as possible ;

fible; and after recommending her not to look at Brilliant till he returned, took a tender leave, mounted Sonora, and taking with him the Luminous Hat, set off for the dwelling of Serena.

ON his departure *May-flower* expected to recover her former looks, but in vain: for she fell into a gradual decline, from which nothing could restore her. The incarnation in her cheeks gave place to a deadly paleness, and was succeeded by "*a green and yellow melancholy, which like a worm in the bud fed on her damask cheek,*" or in the language of plain prose, she was nothing but skin and bones.

DURING these events Brilliant no longer made her appearance; for no one could look at her without holding the parrot, and her Royal Highness was so taken

taken with the bird, that she would not part with it out of her hands.

REPORT said much of its beauty, but little of its understanding: it spoke seldom, and what it said was entirely without meaning; but its actions were graceful, and its manner engaging.

Fiddlestick impatient to revisit his mistress, made such expedition that he returned before it was thought possible that he could have got half way; and amidst the acclamations of the people went directly to the apartments of the Princess, with the remedy for the murders of her beautiful eyes.

HE carried in his hand a phial made of a single diamond, containing a transparent liquor of such splendour, that the eyes of Brilliant herself were dazzled, and closed of themselves.

Fiddle-

Fiddlestick took that opportunity of moistening her temples and eyelids ; having ordered the doors to be thrown open, the people entered in crouds, and were witnesses to the immediate effect of the liquor : her eyes were no less brilliant than before, but so little dangerous, that an infant of a year old could ogle her during a whole day without danger.

Fiddlestick having respectfully kissed the train of her robe, retired from her presence ; and although the first emotions of his heart would have carried him to the charming *May-flower*, yet the report of the miracle he had just performed was so quickly diffused, that he was hurried involuntarily into the presence of the Caliph.

THAT good Prince was almost transported with joy, when he heard, that the
eyes

eyes of his daughter, though as bright as ever, were no longer dangerous to behold; and when *Fiddlestick* had restored him to his sight, he did not appear so much delighted with seeing the light of the sun, as grateful to him, who had been the means of opening his eyes. He flung himself upon his knees, endeavoured to kiss his feet, and after expressing many transports which corresponded less with his dignity than his gratitude, he expressed a resolution of leading him to his daughter, that she might chuse him for her husband; adding that the marriage should instantly take place, and protested to his council, that he should never be completely happy, till he saw his palace full of little *Fiddlesticks*.

THE members of the council were upon the point of repeating little *Fiddlesticks*,

as

as they had before repeated *Fiddlestick*, but fortunately in time recollected the letters patent which declared all those, who repeated that word, guilty of high treason; and were silent.

WHILE the Caliph was going to his daughter, *Fiddlestick* could not dispense with restoring the sight of all those who had been struck blind by the eyes of Brilliant. Their number was great, but as the remedy was expeditious, he soon cured them. Every cure was accompanied with shouts and acclamations; but amidst this general joy, *May-flower* was alone unhappy.

THE widow had already communicated to her the arrival of *Fiddlestick*; and that news, which at any other time would have filled her with joy, had now overwhelmed her with despair. She fell upon her knees
before

before the widow and her confidante, and entreated them not to let her dear *Fiddlestick* see her, in her present deplorable state. They assented to her request, but told her at the same time, that she could not dispense with receiving a visit from the Caliph, who, as soon as he had received his sight, would be curious to see a person who was reported to be as handsome as Brilliant. Without loss of time they immediately began dressing her, loaded her with gaudy ornaments, covered her emaciated cheeks with an enormous quantity of rouge, for the purpose of rendering her figure more ridiculous and horrible; and then placed her upon a couch of state.

SHE was scarcely seated, before they heard her lover coming up stairs, and assuring

furing her it was the Caliph, they cruelly quitted the room.

May-flower having made an effort to sit up that she might receive the Caliph with due respect, was seized with horror on seeing *Fiddlestick*, instead of the Caliph, enter the apartment; and uttering a dismal shriek, threw herself back and reclined her head upon the edge of the couch. Although no less surprised at this sudden motion, than at the strangeness of the figure, he approached her, and when she had a little recovered herself he asked her where *May-flower* was? On this question her spirits failed her, and instead of returning any answer, she covered her face with her hands, and burst into tears.

Fiddlestick not comprehending her figure, or giving himself any more trouble to inquire about her grief, retired to look
for

for *May-flower*; and though the widow and the negrefs shaking their sides with laughter, told him repeatedly, that he just came from her, he was disgusted with their mirth which was so misplaced, and abruptly quitting them, returned to the palace, where he found another kind of scene.

CHAP.

CHAP. V.

How Brilliant falls distracted on losing her Parrot ; and how May-flower dies, and how her body is placed upon the Funeral Pile ; and how Fiddlestick is inconsolable ; and how Serena appears mounted on Sonora—and how she reproaches his cruelty to May-flower—and how Fiddlestick does not understand what she means—and how Serena comforts Brilliant by restoring her Parrot,—and how Brilliant offers her hand and the kingdom of Cashmeer to Fiddlestick,—and how Fiddlestick refuses them both, out of affection to the memory of May-flower—and how Fiddlestick is rewarded for his fidelity ; and how Old Mother Long Tooth is punished ; and how the beautiful

ful Parrot turns out to be Prince Phoenix the brother of Fiddlestick, and the lover of Brilliant.

FIDDLESTICK found the Princess Brilliant extended on the ground, and tearing her hair in an agony of grief for the loss of her beautiful parrot, which had made his escape while *Fiddlestick* had been employed in moistening her temples and eyelids. The Caliph and the courtiers were getting upon ladders, and seeking for the bird on the shelves, and on the testers of the beds, and wherever they thought it possible for the bird to be concealed.

Fiddlestick who did not understand what they were looking for, inquired of every one, where *May-flower* was, and every one inquired of him where was the Princess's

cess's parrot? He thought them all gone mad, and was fearful of being mad himself. As soon as the Caliph perceived him, he ran to him, and thinking that he could do every thing, conjured him to appease the despair of Brilliant, by restoring her parrot.

Fiddlestick surprised at the uneasiness of the Caliph, and the obstinacy of the Princess, and not conceiving that any one could feel any other anxiety than that which he felt, instead of paying any attention to the request of the Caliph, he said that he had obtained the remedy from *Serena*, under the condition that *May-flower* was secure; that he must therefore first see *May-flower* again, and then he would endeavour to find the parrot. Brilliant heard these comfortable words, and believed them, as being uttered by a man
who

who never boasted of any thing, which he was not capable of performing. She immediately recovered her serenity, and those attractions, which excessive grief had diminished; she began to recollect what *Fiddlestick* had performed for her sake, and what he had just promised her. After a short reverie, the recollection of her former attachment, and her promise of espousing him recurring to her mind, she was overcome with gratitude; and throwing herself upon her knees, she entreated her father's permission to acquit herself of so many obligations, by giving her hand to a man who had risked his life for her service.

ON hearing these words, the Caliph fell into such transports of joy as astonished all who were present; and after almost stifling his daughter with kisses, he swore

G

that

that she would have given him less pleasure by chusing a husband, who could have added to his dominions fifteen provinces like the kingdom of Cashmeer. Then turning to embrace his future son-in-law, he was surpris'd to find him gone, without saying "with your leave, or by your leave." In fact *Fiddlestick* no sooner began to suspect in what manner all the fine reflections of Brilliant were likely to end, than without expecting the conclusion of her speech, he departed, and returned to the house of the widow. There he had left his dear *May-flower* when he was going to Serena, and there he was determined to find her, or to know what was become of her. He found her indeed, but alas in what a situation! He found her fainting away and holding in her hand the tablets on which he had written those verses which

which he had composed in praise of her beauty during their escape from Old Mother Long Tooth. The recollection of all the fine things which he then said to her, and of his former sentiments in her favour, and the comparison of her former beauty with her present shocking figure, filled her with transports of sorrow. She had written on the tablets; "He inquired of me where "*May-flower* was: How dreadfully then "*must the unhappy May-flower be chang-*
 "ed! But alas, if he had ever loved me,
 "would his heart have not known me.
 "He knew me too well: I inspired him
 "with horror, and I shall never see him
 "again." She then added the last adieu;
 called upon death to relieve her from her present misery, and believing herself expiring, said so many soft and tender things, as proved her extreme love for her dear *Fiddlestick*.

HE immediately recollected his tablets, but it was not till after he had read what she had written, that he recognised her. His blood froze in his veins at the sight; he examined her from head to foot without finding the smallest traces of his beloved *May-flower* in the dreadful figure; he thought her dead, and indeed whoever had seen her must have concluded that she had been dead above fifteen days.

HIS astonishment gave way to his tenderness and compassion, and with a mixed transport of despair and affection, he seized her cold and emaciated hand, imprinted it with kisses and bedewed it with tears.

THESE actions recalled her breath, which was on the wing to escape. She opened her eyes, and saw at her feet the man in the world whom she most wished
and

and most dreaded to see, who alone could make her regret life, or desire death.

WHAT they said to each other, would have soothed the most savage breast; he protested from the bottom of his heart, that he did not love her less than in the time of her former beauty; that if her beauty had been the first cause of his attachment, her understanding, her distress and enchanting manners had made a still more lively and durable impression on his heart; such as could only be effaced by death alone.

May-flower wept tears of tenderness and joy, squeezed his hand for the first time in her life, because she thought it would be the last: and assured him that after so many sincere marks of so rare a constancy, she should die contented.

THIS tender interview was interrupted

by the widow who had just come from court, and been witness to the resolution which Brilliant had taken to give her hand to *Fiddlestick*, and to the transports of the Caliph in proclaiming the intended marriage. On seeing *Fiddlestick* at the feet of a creature who she imagined must have inspired him with horror, all her jealousy revived; and she, willing to increase the misery of her dying moments, hastened to wish him joy of his intended marriage with Brilliant. She had scarcely excited the attention of *Fiddlestick*, before the Princess, accompanied by the Caliph and the whole court, arrived. She testified the greatest surprise on seeing *Fiddlestick* on his knees before so dreadful a figure; but what was the astonishment of *May-flower* at the sight of a beauty which surpassed the most exaggerated reports?

her

her strength of mind and body seemed to abandon her at the same moment : she fixed her eyes for some time on the Princess ; and then turning them tenderly on her lover, closed them for ever.

Fiddlestick gave a sudden scream which made the whole assembly shudder, and even affected the Princess herself. The Caliph perceiving her emotion, endeavoured to comfort her. “ Be not discouraged ” he said to her, “ at that scream of horror ; “ that corps, which he so much regrets, “ is doubtless some old relation whom he “ thus laments out of respect to her memory.” Then turning to him, he said, “ Come *Fiddlestick*, get up and dry your “ tears, it is ridiculous to play the woman “ for a mummy, when you have now the “ offer of the hand of Brilliant and the “ kingdom of Cashmeer.

INSTEAD of attending to this harangue, and answering it with the respect due to Majesty, *Fiddlestick* remained absorbed in grief.

“ But who can paint the lover as he stood,
 “ Struck by severe amazement, hating life,
 “ Speechless and fix’d in all the death of woe !”

IN this state of affairs the negress entered the apartment ; seemed to lament the death of *May-flower*, pitied the despair of *Fiddlestick*, and advised the Caliph to order the body to be instantly removed and burnt, if he was desirous of bringing *Fiddlestick* to reason.

IN vain *Fiddlestick* uttered the most violent screams, and opposed the removal of the body. They forced him from the remains of his adored *May-flower*, whom he still loved more than his life ; raised a funeral

funeral pile in the court yard of the palace, and placed her body upon it.

AFTER some funeral ceremonies, the Caliph desirous of honouring the remains of a person whom his future son-in-law seemed so deeply to regret, distributed flambeaus composed of the most precious gums to his daughter, the members of the cabinet council, and the officers of his household; then lifting a flambeau over his head he cried out—"Would to Heaven that my dear *Fiddlestick* was witness to the honourable manner in which I am going to burn the body of her whom he so much regrets;" at the conclusion of these words, he was preparing to set fire to the four corners of the pile, when suddenly the air re-echoed with a delightful melody, and the powerful *Serena* appeared riding on *Sonora*.

HER presence affected those who were assembled with different sensations. The Caliph checked his impatience to set fire to the pile; the courtiers were struck with awe; and Brilliant uttered repeated cries of joy at seeing her parrot perched on the hand of the Fairy. The widow was so troubled, that she would have changed colour if her face had been natural; and her confidante the negress in vain attempted to escape.

SERENA descending from Sonora, advanced to the funeral pile, holding in her right hand the wand of truth, which was made of polished gold, and shone with so bright lustre that it dazzled the sight. Affecting to be ignorant of what had passed, she enquired of the Caliph what was the purpose of the funeral pile; "It is" he said, "intended to burn the corpse of a
 " certain

"certain *May-flower*." "And what has
 "that *May-flower* done," returned the
 Fairy with a severe tone of voice, "that
 "you are going to burn her alive."

WHILE the whole assembly were filled
 with horror or joy at these words, the
 Caliph humbly begged pardon for having
 forgotten that *May-flower* was her daughter,
 but maintained that she was dead, and
 as a proof of what he advanced, asserted
 that he was on the point of burning her.
 Serena without condescending to return
 any answer, commanded the body to be
 taken down from the funeral pile, and to
 be placed on a couch in the palace; and
 then turning to the Caliph, "You shall
 "now see," she said, "that she is not
 "dead, there are some here who know
 "that too well."

ON saying these words, Serena touched

the forehead of the deceased with the extremity of her wand, and in an instant *May-flower* revived and opened her eyes, with all the astonishment of a person who starts from a long sleep in an unknown place.

SERENA appeared alarmed at her shocking figure ; and sent for *Fiddlestick*, who immediately obeyed her summons. On his appearance the beautiful parrot screamed and clapped his wings ; *Fiddlestick* recognized it to be the same he had seen on his journey to Old Mother Long Tooth's ; but absorbed as he was in grief, he did not pay much attention to either the bird, or to any thing that was passing.

AT the same moment Serena with a look of indignation cried out, " Perfidious wretch, how dare you appear in my fight ! You who at the risk of your life,
" an-

“ answered for that of my dearest *May-*
 “ *flower*. You who not only suffered her
 “ to imbibe that fatal poison which has
 “ rendered her such a shocking spectacle,
 “ but now cowardly abandon her to her
 “ pitiless enemies, and to the flames, which
 “ were ready to devour her remains ;
 “ and you abandon her in so barbarous a
 “ manner, for the sake of signalizing your
 “ treachery in the sight of the Princess,
 “ for whom you have betrayed her.”

Fiddlestick was no more affected with
 this long train of reproaches, than if they
 had been addressed to another person :
 he was reflecting on the death of his be-
 loved *May-flower* ; and in his imagination
 was wandering in pursuit of her shade.
 But Serena still proving him only to make
 his triumph still greater, said to him, “ Go
 “ and

"and receive the recompence which the
 "Fates have reserved for you, notwithstanding
 "your black infidelity: a recompence which your
 "courage and firmness deserve, for having accomplished
 "as rash and difficult an enterprise, as ever
 "was undertaken by man; and you Princess," she
 "added turning to Brilliant, "do you chuse, or
 "rather take your husband. *Fiddlestick* was not
 "indifferent to you before he had braved such
 "dangers in your service. I command you
 "then, in the name of the Destinies to
 "chuse your husband."

BRILLIANT looked several times at the beautiful
 parrot, *Fiddlestick*, and *May-flower* one after the
 other, and after a few moments reflection; "Let
 him chuse" she said, "between *May-flower* and
 "Brilliant."

Fiddle-

Fiddlestick trembled at these words, and as if he had recovered from a dream, addressed himself to Brilliant : “ Fair Princess, I am not worthy of the honour to which I do not aspire, and of which I have not even thought, since I first saw the unfortunate *May-flower*. She is no more, and my heart reproaches me every moment that I survive her. I lived only for her, and the only choice now left me is to follow.”—“ And if she still lived,” interrupted Serena.—These few words brought back his recollection; a dawn of hope presented itself to his imagination; he knew the power of Serena, and throwing himself at her feet, exclaimed : “ If she lived, O let her live! and if my life alone is required to purchase her’s, let *Fiddlestick* die; and let *May-flower* revive.”

WITH

WITH the best understanding in the world, it is a hundred to one, that a man who is passionately in love, does not know what he does; and in the situation in which he stood, it was very pardonable to be a little out of his mind, and to be so silly that he would have remained to the end of the world at the feet of Serena, expecting the revival of his mistress, who was not dead. Meanwhile the tender *May-flower* lost not a word of his conversation, and almost died a second time from joy and gratitude.

SERENA, now thinking it time to give some relief to the affliction of so tender a lover, raised him from the ground on which he was kneeling like a condemned criminal demanding a reprieve, and laying aside her feigned severity,

“Come,”

“Come,” she said, “receive your *May-flower*; and if your constancy is proof against her horrible figure, live for her, as she will live for you.”

Fiddlestick in the first transports of joy at the sight of his mistress alive, said and did a thousand foolish things, which would appear highly ridiculous to those who have never been in love. He finally concluded all his fine speeches by taking Heaven and Earth to witness, that he would have no other wife but *May-flower*. In return, she combated this resolution by the most exalted sentiments of generosity; she protested, that she felt too much affection and gratitude for him, to permit him to make so bad a choice; that she would never consent to his losing the most beautiful Princess in the world, with the
most

most splendid fortune in favour of her; even if her weak attractions were the same as before her illness; but horribly ugly as she was, she would prefer a thousand deaths rather than consent to espouse him.

THE divine Brilliant and the Caliph her father, acted rather indifferent parts during this generous contest: the Caliph whom it did not escape, said to Serena, "In truth this scene would be extremely fine on all sides, if my daughter were not a party concerned. But is it proper, that handsome and tall as she is, she should have no husband? or do you think it right, that she should amuse herself during her life with that bird, which you have just restored to her? a parrot is truly a fine resource for a young Princess."

THE good Caliph was in a humour to
con-

continue his harangue, when Serena requested the particular attention of the Caliph, the cabinet council and the court. The awfulness of her mein infused a respectful silence into the whole assembly; and the negress was seen to tremble from head to foot.

SERENA then took the parrot from the Princess, and placing it upon the ground, touched the top of its head with her wand, and traced a circle around it; a thick vapour instantly arose and enveloped the bird. She next traced a circle around the couch on which *May-flower* was extended, and touching her forehead a similar vapour arose, and *May-flower* became invifible.

WHILE the fpectators were attentive to thefe things, Sonora cantered around, and enchanted the whole afsembly with the

the harmonious melody of her bells. As long as she continued cantering, the vapour enveloped *May-flower* and the parrot. At length Serena striking the ground three times with her golden wand, Sonora stopped, the vapour disappeared, and instead of the parrot was discovered the handsomest man that ever was seen.

Fiddlestick immediately recognized his brother Phœnix, and shrieked with astonishment; but while his brother was preparing to rush into his arms, he turned round, and observed *May-flower* a thousand times more charming than when he first saw her on the banks of the rivulet, or when he contemplated her beauty while she lay asleep.

THE people testified their astonishment by repeated and confused acclamations, the courtiers by exaggerated expressions, and

and the Caliph by tears of joy. Brilliant considered with attention the metamorphosis which did not seem to displease her, and Phœnix fixed his eyes upon her's.

BUT the enraptured *Fiddlestick* was about to give a loose to his transports, at the feet of *May-flower*, if Serena had not stopped him at the moment he was going to throw himself on the ground. Taking him by the hand, she placed him near his brother, opposite to Brilliant, and addressed herself to the Princess.

“ CONSIDER well these two brothers,
 “ reflect on the services of the one, and
 “ the beauty of the other ; but particu-
 “ larly consult your own heart for the
 “ decision, which your destiny renders
 “ irrevocable : whichsoever of these two
 “ Princes you chuse for your husband,
 “ you

“you can neither make a choice unworthy of you, nor can he whom you chuse refuse to be yours.” *Fiddlestick* whom the presence of Phoenix encouraged, could not help shuddering at the idea, lest some evil genius should tempt her to name him. But as there was no comparison between his figure and that of Phoenix, Brilliant did not hesitate a moment, and gave her hand to the most beautiful of the two; and Serena immediately joined those of *May-flower* and *Fiddlestick*.

THE Caliph, no less contented than the lovers, issued orders to fire the whole artillery of the place, to prepare fireworks at the corner of every street, in every square, and on the banks of the river, to throw money among the people,

ple, and to supply the fountains with wine instead of water.

SUCH was the public joy in the midst of the general satisfaction, that the Minister's widow and the negress had been forgotten; Serena proclaimed, that as virtue had hitherto been rewarded, vice must now be punished; and she accordingly touched their foreheads with the wand of truth. All the metamorphosis which the widow experienced was the loss of four inches of paint which fell from her face and neck: she now appeared a wrinkled old woman, rendered still more ridiculous by the youthfulness of her dress, which suffered no alteration; as to the negress, her figure totally disappeared, and gave place to that of Old Mother Long Tooth, who animated by love and vengeance, had concealed herself

self under that disguise. *May-flower* already began to tremble, but Serena soon put an end to her alarms, by saying to the Caliph, "Sire, the fate of these wretches is now in your power; do you pronounce their sentence."—"Well then," returned the Caliph, "since it is so, I will not make them wait: call my Attorney-General; place the Sorcerers on the funeral pile, set it on fire, and carry the widow to the mad-house."

IN vain the compassionate *May-flower* interceded for mercy; *Fiddlestick* who recollected the cruelties which had been inflicted on *May-flower*, and who still felt the box on the ear which his charmer had received from her pitiless hands, confirmed the sentence issued by the Caliph against Old Mother Long Tooth; and no one thought that the punishment inflicted on the widow was too severe.

WHILE

WHILE the sentence was carrying into execution, the illustrious troop repaired to the palace.

THE two brothers were happy in meeting after so long an absence, and still more happy in being passionately in love and both favourably received by two such beautiful women; both charming, yet in different ways. The beauty of Brilliant was more astonishing, but that of *May-flower* more captivating; the one dazzled, the other insinuated itself into the bottom of the heart, and possessed a thousand nameless graces which are better felt than described.

AFTER the first hurry of meeting was past, *Fiddlestick* expressed an inclination to hear the adventures of a brother whom he tenderly loved; obtained the Caliph's permission, and Phoenix thus began.

CHAP VI.

HISTORY OF PHŒNIX.

How Phoenix is the brother of Fiddlestick; and how he is the handsomest man in the world—and how he goes about seeking his fortune—and how he falls into the clutches of Old Mother Long Tooth—and how she offers him her hand or death—and how he is embarrassed which to choose—and how he is relieved from his embarrassment by being changed into a Parrot—and how he sees Fiddlestick and tries to speak with him; and how he can say nothing but Fiddlestick—and how he is brought to the Court of Cashmeer—and how he falls in love with Brilliant—and how

*how Brilliant falls in love with him—
and how happy he is that he is no longer
a Parrot.*

“**W**HEN Prince Chaffinch and I
“ separated in search of adventures.”—
“ And pray,” said the Caliph, “ who is
“ Prince Chaffinch?” “ I, Sire,” replied
Fiddlestick: “ and it was without knowing
“ why, that I quitted that name, to assume
“ that which I now bear, and which I am
“ determined to bear all my life, because
“ under that name I was first known to
“ *May-flower.*” He then related his ad-
ventures, until that separation which his
brother had just mentioned, and Phoenix
then pursued his discourse.

“ We agreed, as he has just informed
“ you, that he who should not succeed in
“ finding an establishment should, if for-

“ tune favoured the other, return and
 “ take possession of our little principality.
 “ As to myself I renounced from that
 “ moment, all thoughts of returning:
 “ proud of those advantages which I
 “ seemed to possess, I thought of nothing
 “ but displaying my person, and making
 “ conquests; and I determined to visit
 “ Circassia, a country long renowned for
 “ beautiful women.

“ Circassia was governed by the widow
 “ of the last king, by whom she had four
 “ daughters, the eldest of whom was to
 “ reign, when she had attained the age of
 “ twenty one.

“ ON this circumstance I founded the
 “ hopes of my establishment, but fortune
 “ reserved for me a more precious blessing;
 “ ing; for on my arrival, I learned that
 “ the Royal Family had been deposed by
 “ a sud-

" a sudden revolution ; that a neighbour-
 " ing Prince had excited the people to
 " revolt, under the pretence of some ill
 " founded claims, and had seated himself on
 " the throne, and that the Queen and her
 " four daughters had escaped with diffi-
 " culty. Unwilling to remain in so perfi-
 " dious a nation, I traversed the king-
 " dom in haste, and was arrested by order
 " of the tyrant, who was suspicious of all
 " strangers.

" BEING conducted into his presence,
 " I concealed neither my name or rank,
 " and met with a reception very different
 " from what I expected. I know not
 " what influenced in my favour, a Prince,
 " who was by no means remarkable for
 " his generosity or courtesy ; but after
 " having detained me in his Court, and
 " loaded me with honours, he offered me

“ in marriage his only daughter, a Princess
 “ whose person and manners were as dis-
 “ gusting, as her father’s title to the crown
 “ was unjust; I considered with horror
 “ an alliance with an usurper, and rejected
 “ the offer with contempt.

“ ON quitting Circassia, chance con-
 “ ducted me to an old castle, magnificent
 “ indeed, but as I thought, uninhabited,
 “ for it was a long time before I saw a
 “ single person, and when I at last met
 “ with some inhabitants of this melan-
 “ choly abode, they all seemed to avoid
 “ each other with extreme caution, and
 “ did not utter a single word.

“ SURPRISED at this barbarous custom,
 “ I traversed several galleries in hopes of
 “ finding some one of whom I might en-
 “ quire, and came to an apartment neatly
 “ fur-

“furnished, containing a table with cards
 “and counters, and several chairs placed
 “around it.

“A FEW moments afterwards entered
 “four magpies, followed by starlings,
 “which supported their trains; and ac-
 “companied by a rook of a serious and
 “decent deportment.

“THE magpies after bowing to, and
 “saluting, each other, with great ap-
 “pearance of civility, sat down to cards;
 “the rook began knotting, and the star-
 “lings snuffed the candles.” *May-flower*
 and *Fiddlestick*, who had never ceased
 looking at each other, since the begin-
 ning of the discourse, jogged each other
 on the mention of the magpies; Brilliant,
 who had never taken her eyes from Phœ-
 nix, seemed to doubt if he spoke seri-
 ously; Serena smiled at an adventure,

which was not unknown to her ; but the Caliph holding both his sides with laughter, exclaimed: " Oh my good son-in-law ; you assume the privilege of a traveller ; I will give you credit for the magpies, whose trains are supported by starlings, and who bow to each other ; such things may be, but a truce with your magpies who play at cards, and your starlings who snuff candles."

PHŒNIX solemnly confirmed the truth of the adventure, and continued his relation : " I stood for a long time observing a game, which probably none but magpies ever played, for as to myself I might have continued overlooking them till this moment without comprehending a tittle. At length a little sprightly magpie uttered a certain word, which

" which I now cannot remember, and
" jumped upon the table.

" I CANNOT conceive how I came to
" forget that word, it was in itself very
" extraordinary, and the other magpies
" grew hoarse with repeating it: the rook
" also pronounced it with incomprehen-
" sible gravity, and even the starlings,
" who snuffed the candles joined in the
" concert: I was indeed so deafened with
" the shrillness of these cries, that I sud-
" denly quitted the apartment, uncertain
" whether I was dreaming, or whether
" what I had seen was real.

" BEFORE I departed from Circassia,
" the kingdom of Cashmeer became the
" general subject of conversation: it was
" described as the most delightful coun-
" try in the east, and the Princess of
" Cashmeer as the wonder of the world.

" I IMMEDIATELY determined to visit
 " this delightful country and to see this
 " beautiful Princess; and laughed at the
 " dangers which were said to be incurred
 " from the brightness of her eyes. What
 " other dangers, said I, can I dread, but
 " that of being in love, and dying in the
 " act of adoring them, if she should prove
 " cruel! for I gave no credit to the deadly
 " poison which was shed from those daz-
 " zling looks, of which such wonderful
 " descriptions were given, and so many
 " tragical histories related.

" To Phoenix, said I to myself, puffed
 " up with a ridiculous vanity, the exces-
 " sive splendour of beauty surely cannot
 " prove fatal: I will go in quest of this
 " fatal beauty, through all the chimerical
 " perils; and if her charms convey a
 " deadly poison, she will at least share
 " the

“ the danger at the sight of Phoenix. I
 “ now, divine Brilliant, take shame to
 “ myself for these ridiculous sentiments,
 “ and mention them at present as a punish-
 “ ment for my vanity.

“ THE secret interest which compelled
 “ me towards you, made me neglect all
 “ the necessary precautions ; and not-
 “ withstanding the repeated warnings I
 “ received concerning the danger of fol-
 “ lowing the route which led near the
 “ habitation of Old Mother Long Tooth,
 “ I pursued it as the shortest way, and
 “ had soon occasion to repent of my
 “ rashness.

“ I traversed the most dreary de-
 “ serts, climbed the most frightful rocks,
 “ and after escaping many imminent perils
 “ I penetrated into a forest, guarded by a

“ thousand monsters who opposed my
“ passage.

“ NOT daunted with fear, I brandished
“ my sword as well against the griffins,
“ which flew over my head, as against the
“ hydras and leopards which surrounded
“ me on all sides. Though I wounded
“ several, yet my strength could not resist
“ their repeated attacks; I sunk to the
“ ground overcome with fatigue, and
“ found myself lifted up into the air by
“ the griffins, and conveyed into the midst
“ of a garden, wherein the Sorcerers was
“ employed in gathering herbs. With
“ these herbs she proposed to form some
“ dreadful mixture, and the blood of a
“ man shed in the agonies of death, was
“ necessary to complete the charm. I
“ was chosen to be the unfortunate vic-
“ tim,

“tim, and laid at her feet to undergo the
“operation of having my throat cut.

“THE Old Hag’s figure was horrible
“beyond description; but mine found
“favour in her sight, and as she was not
“delicate in her notions, she plainly in-
“formed me, that if I would espouse her,
“she would make me master of the most in-
“estimable treasures, including her own
“person among the number; but that if
“I rejected her offer, I should be put
“to death before the next morning; and
“to give me leisure to reflect on the pro-
“posal, she quitted me without waiting
“for an answer.

“BEING left to my own reflections,
“I was divided between the dread of
“dying, and the horror of marrying so
“detestable a creature: and I thought
“death

“ death a far more honourable and less
 “ difficult option than the other.

“ IF I refuse her abominable hand, I
 “ said to myself, I shall die an inglori-
 “ ous death ; and if I accept it, I shall
 “ have made truly a most honourable
 “ establishment, after having flattered my-
 “ self with the vain hopes of pleasing the
 “ divine Brilliant, whose looks no mor-
 “ tal has yet been able to support. I
 “ find myself reduced to the necessity
 “ of either becoming the husband of a
 “ frightful Old Witch, or of dying ob-
 “ scurely in a place, where no one will
 “ ever hear of my fate.

“ THESE disagreeable reflections, how-
 “ ever, did not prevent me from admiring
 “ the beauty of the garden, or take away
 “ my appetite ; and as the trees in the
 “ garden abounded with the most delici-

“ ous

“ous fruit, I gathered some figs, of which
 “I was always particularly fond, and had
 “scarcely tasted one, before I forgot my
 “uneasiness, and fell asleep.

“BEING awakened by the screams of
 “the Sorcerers, I found myself changed
 “into a parrot; a metamorphosis which,
 “as it destroyed for the present all pro-
 “bability that our espousals would soon
 “take place, filled her with disappoint-
 “ment and fury. She suspected that
 “*May-flower* had been the cause of this
 “metamorphosis, but without knowing
 “by what means, and swore that she
 “would punish her. Neither her lamen-
 “tations nor her threats escaped me;
 “but I was so astonished at the whole
 “of this surprising adventure, that I con-
 “sidered it as a dream, and flattered my-
 “self that in waking, I should be deli-
 “vered

“ vered from the horrors which I had
“ recently experienced.

“ THE Sorcerers placed me upon her
“ fist, loaded me with all the caresses
“ which a bird could receive; and told
“ me to wait with patience: she added
“ that in eight or ten days she would
“ prepare a certain composition which
“ should restore me to my original shape,
“ but cautioned me against eating any
“ salt, if it fell in my way. She then
“ gathered several herbs, of which I did
“ not know the names, and left me in the
“ garden.

“ JUDGE of my sorrow and consterna-
“ tion; I attempted to lament my misfor-
“ tune; but instead of crying out unfor-
“ tunate Phœnix, I could utter only,
“ poll, poll, pretty poll, scratch my pole,
“ poor poll, and such expressions as par-
“ rots

“rots are usually taught, and which they
 “soon learn to repeat. I was so confu-
 “sed, that I was determined to hold my
 “tongue.

“ONE day as I was flying about in
 “the neighbourhood, I saw a poor wo-
 “man employed in washing some fish on
 “the banks of the rivulet, and curing
 “them with some salt, which she took
 “from a little bag that lay on the ground.
 “I recollected the prohibition of the Sor-
 “cerers not to taste any salt, and it imme-
 “diately occurred to me, that I was for-
 “bidden to taste it, because it might have
 “the power to restore me to my former
 “shape.

“I accordingly approached the good
 “woman, who appeared charmed with
 “my beauty ; and as I seemed very
 “tame, she ran gently after me endea-
 “vouring

“ vouring to catch me ; when suddenly
 “ rising into the air, I pounced upon the
 “ bag of salt, carried it off, and conveyed
 “ it to a bush at some little distance, with
 “ a determination to return the next
 “ morning, and try the experiment.

“ I WAS on the wing before sun rise ;
 “ and when I came to the place where I
 “ had concealed the bag of salt, I saw my
 “ dear brother. My surprise was equal
 “ to my joy ; I was anxious that he should
 “ catch me, but instead of attempting to
 “ follow me, he only looked at me with
 “ attention. I went immediately to try
 “ the effect of the salt which I had hid,
 “ but he seemed apprehensive lest it should
 “ hurt me. I then attempted to inform
 “ him of the danger he incurred from the
 “ arts of the Sorcerers, but instead of
 “ speaking, I burst into a loud fit of
 “ laugh-

"laughter. My brother admiring with
 "raptures the beauty of my plumage,
 "called me a Phoenix; I endeavoured
 "to reply, Yes my dear brother, I am
 "Phoenix; but instead of uttering these
 "words, I could only say *Fiddlestick*;
 "and was compelled by some invisible
 "power to fly away to the garden of Old
 "Mother Long Tooth.

"Two days afterwards being immersed
 "in uneasy reflections concerning the fate
 "of my brother Chaffinch, I heard the
 "Sorcerers utter the most dreadful howl-
 "ings.

"You my dear brother, for whom I
 "was so much alarmed, were the cause
 "of her despair; you had just carried off
 "her treasures, and disarmed her fury;
 "for the power of her enchantments was
 "derived from Sonora and the Luminous
 "Hat,

“ Hat, which were in your possession. I
 “ immediately flew to her dwelling, and
 “ arrived there just as she was returned
 “ from pursuing you.

“ CONCEALED in a hollow oak which
 “ stood near the stable, I was witness to
 “ her transports of fury and despair.”
 “ At least” she cried out, “ I will enjoy
 “ the pleasure of revenging the treachery
 “ of the infamous *May-flower*: the robber
 “ who seduced her to betray me, has, I
 “ find left her, almost stifled with hay in
 “ the stall of Sonora. I will now com-
 “ plete my vengeance.” “ At the con-
 “ clusion of these words she entered the
 “ stable, and being deceived by the head-
 “ drefs of Master Long Tooth, took that
 “ miserable wretch for *May-flower*; with-
 “ out any further ceremony set fire to the
 “ hay, and closed the door of the stable to
 “ pre-

“prevent the miserable victim from all
“chance of escaping.

“SHE then ran to her house, but not
“finding there, as she expected, her only
“son Master Long Tooth, she suspected
“some fresh misfortune, and returning to
“the stable she found it on fire, and hear-
“ing the howlings of her only son, to
“whom the flames had restored the use
“of his voice, by burning the hay which
“had been crammed into his mouth, she
“opened the door, and saw through the
“fire and smoke her only son, suffering
“the same kind of death which she after-
“wards suffered herself.

“THE scream which she then ut-
“tered was so dreadful, that at this
“moment I tremble with horror on re-
“collecting it; the oak in which I lay
“concealed, was almost overturned; and
“the

" the long tooth, from which she derived
 " her title, bounded more than fifty paces,
 " and was shattered into atoms. The loss
 " of her tooth increased her regret and
 " resentment. All my power is gone,
 " she exclaimed, I must have recourse to
 " artifice. At the conclusion of these
 " few words, she ran furiously to her ha-
 " bitation ; I escaped from the oak in
 " which I lay concealed, and flew to the
 " bush wherein I had hid the bag of salt.
 " I now began to hope that I had escaped
 " from the clutches of the Old Hag.
 " Thanks to Heaven, I said, for having
 " delivered me from the cruel necessity
 " of chusing either death, or so disgusting
 " a wife ; but am I not a parrot for the
 " rest of my life ?

" I WILL not weary you with recount-
 " ing all my sufferings, before I reached
 " this

" this happy land, which was to put an
 " end to my misery ; how I was near
 " dying with hunger amid the desarts,
 " where there was no fruit ; how not be-
 " ing accustomed to fly, my wings would
 " not long support me ; how all those
 " who saw me, attempted to catch me ;
 " how the boys pelted me with stones,
 " or climbed after me to the tops of the
 " trees whither I had retired for security.

" As soon as I entered this delightful
 " paradise, I recovered from my fatigue
 " and terror. But the infernal Mother
 " Long Tooth had followed me, without
 " my knowing her under the shape which
 " she had assumed. Being accustomed to
 " be admired, I did not suspect the cause
 " of her great attention in following me.

" As I was perched on the summit of a
 " high tree, and somewhat pensive on re-
 " flecting

“flecting on my present situation, and
 “future destiny”—“What a pity it is,”
 she said, “that so beautiful a parrot should
 “have strayed away? Doubtless it be-
 “longs to some King, or to some beauti-
 “ful woman, who is now in despair at
 “having lost it: perhaps it may even be-
 “long to the most beautiful of all beau-
 “ties; even to the divine Brilliant:
 “though if he had ever been in her pos-
 “session, he would never have preferred
 “his liberty to the pleasure of seeing her.
 “If he were not so wild,” she added,
 “observing me hopping from branch to
 “branch, and descending for the purpose
 “of listening to what she said: if he were
 “not too wild, he would suffer himself to
 “be taken and carried to Brilliant, as the
 “most precious present which the king-
 “dom of her father contains. How happy
 “will

“will he feel himself,” continued the artful Sorceress, “in becoming the delight of that divine Princess; and what mortal would not change condition with a parrot, who will pass whole days and nights in the presence of the most delightful creature in the universe.”

“How well the cajoling Old Hag knew to whom she spoke? I was so transported, that I perched lightly on her hand which she held out to me, as she ceased speaking. My eagerness however had well nigh proved fatal to me. For she had no sooner got me in her power, than instantly her countenance changed and her eyes sparkled; with one hand she pressed my claws together, and the other she twice applied to my neck, as if with an intention to throttle me; which so alarmed me that

I

“I chat-

" I chattered, ' poor poll, pretty poll, pity
 " me now, pity me now ;' though I did
 " not comprehend what she meant, till
 " the wand of Serena discovered Old
 " Mother Long Tooth concealed under
 " that figure.

" FORTUNATELY for me she resisted
 " the first emotions of her cruel ven-
 " geance, probably because it was her in-
 " terest to preserve me alive ; and she
 " took care to convey me safe to court.
 " The day of my arrival was the begin-
 " ning of my happiness : my parrot's eyes
 " supported the fatal lustre of Brilliant's
 " eyes, and by some unknown charm,
 " those who could not venture to look
 " at her at the distance of fifty paces,
 " could on taking me in their hands ap-
 " proach her very near, and ogle her with-
 " out the least danger. I will not detain
 " you

"you with describing the transports of
 "joy which I felt on receiving her inno-
 "cent caresses, which amply repaid me
 "for the horror with which the tender-
 "ness of Old Mother Long Tooth had
 "inspired me. In fine, I began under
 "the figure of a parrot, to please the
 "most beautiful creature in the world;
 "happy if that shape, which I have now
 "recovered, will prove agreeable."

PHŒNIX ceased speaking; and although
 Brilliant blushed more than once towards
 the end of his relation, yet her lovely
 eyes seemed to assure him, that he had
 lost nothing of her good will in ceasing
 to be a parrot.

THE Caliph was greatly diverted at
 the adventures of his son-in-law: and
 particularly expressed his approbation
 that he had refused the little deformed

Princels of Circassia. "But Phoenix,"
 he added, "put your hand upon your
 "heart: and answer me upon your ho-
 "nour and conscience, if fortunately you
 "had not been changed into a parrot,
 "would not you rather have espoused
 "the Sorceress, her mother and grand
 "mother, and all the Long Teeth in the
 "world, than have suffered to have had
 "your throat to be cut like an idiot? As
 "to myself I am doubtless no less delicate
 "than another, but after all, it is a hor-
 "rible thing,

"To die and go we know not where,

"To lie in cold oblivion and to rot."

"But let us talk no more what you
 "would have done: I hope at least that
 "the crown of Cashmeer, which you will
 "enjoy, when I am willing to wear it no
 "longer, and the hand of Brilliant which
 "you

“ you now possess, will make up for your
 “ refusal to espouse the Princess of Cir-
 “ cassia. As to your brother Chaffinch,
 “ although he is not richly married, he
 “ appears to me so well satisfied with his
 “ wife, and his mother-in-law Serena, that
 “ he does not envy you ; for what with
 “ his understanding, what with his little
 “ principality, and what Serena will leave
 “ him one of these days, he will be upon
 “ the whole, tolerably well off.”

THE modest *May-flower*, who though
 herself without the least ambition, now
 wished to have been heiress to the whole
 world, blushed at these expressions of the
 Caliph. She was not in the least ashamed
 at being the daughter of so wonderful a
 person as Serena, but she felt some con-
 fusion, at hearing all the advantages which

Brilliant brought to her husband, and which *Fiddlestick* had refused for her sake.

SERENA, who observed her embarrassment, and penetrated her thoughts, thus addressed herself to the Caliph: “ Do you
 “ Sire,” she said, “ who doubtless owe
 “ some obligations to *Fiddlestick*, know
 “ that he has no occasion to envy his
 “ brother’s establishment. You have witnessed the preference he gave to *May-flower* expiring, to *May-flower* an object
 “ of horror, and to *May-flower* dead over
 “ the possession of the Princess Brilliant,
 “ in all the splendour of beauty and glory.
 “ Judge then, if in his present situation,
 “ he ought to be contented with his fate;
 “ but know, that Serena is not the sister
 “ of Mother Long Tooth, nor *May-flower*
 “ the daughter of Serena, but I will now
 “ relate her history.”

CHAP.

CHAP. VII.

HISTORY OF SERENA.

How Serena relates her own history, and explains all the marvellous adventures which befell Fiddlestick, and Phoenix, and May-flower, and Brilliant, to the satisfaction of the Caliph and the whole company—and how Fiddlestick is the happiest of men; and how fortunate it was that he assumed the name of Fiddlestick.

“ **B**ETWEEN the Tigris and the
 “ Euphrates extends a vast plain, far be-
 “ yond all the other regions of the earth,
 “ the kingdom of Cashmeer perhaps ex-
 “ cepted. Of this tract of country my
 “ father was Sovereign. He had pene-
 “ trated

"trated into the profoundest secrets of
 "nature ; but he was entirely absorbed
 "in these speculations ; he neglected the
 "government of his kingdom, and thought
 "only of consulting how the stars were
 "regulated above, and of improving his
 "knowledge of the abstruse sciences.
 "With this view having quitted the plains
 "and ranged from mountain to mountain,
 "his subjects quietly deposed him, and
 "another took peaceable possession of
 "what he abandoned on earth.

"THIS news did not in the least affect
 "him ; nor indeed was any thing capable
 "of touching him, except He who con-
 "quers all : nor was it the least proof of
 "the power of love to be able to triumph
 "over a genius which was so deeply ab-
 "sorbed in the most abstract speculations.

"HAVING for some casual circum-
 "stance

" stance descended into Circassia, a more
 " lively inclination than any he had felt
 " before, drew him from the consideration
 " of Heavenly, to the contemplation of
 " earthly beauties. In a word he fell
 " passionately in love; and the most beau-
 " tiful Circassian woman did not disdain
 " to accept the hand of a deposed Prince.

" I SHOULD imagine that she soon re-
 " pented of her condescension, for he was
 " scarcely married, before, instead of at-
 " tempting to form a proper establishment
 " on earth, he hastened to his beloved
 " mountains, and fixed his retreat in the
 " midst of those frightful rocks, which
 " *Fiddlestick* and *May-flower* traversed in
 " their way hither. There he searched
 " into the bowels of the earth, and aided
 " by his knowledge of the stars, which
 " have such an astonishing influence on

“ the things on earth, he soon acquired
 “ the philosopher’s stone. The comple-
 “ tion of this discovery formed the sum
 “ of all his wishes. He was able to con-
 “ vert all the metals into gold, and to
 “ command the invifible fpirits of the air.
 “ By their miniftry he raifed in the midft
 “ of thofe rocks an enchanted palace, en-
 “ tirely compofed of gold and precious
 “ ftones.

“ INTO this palace he received his
 “ wife, who though fhocked at his im-
 “ patience of returning to his rocks and
 “ mountains, yet followed him to his re-
 “ treat.

“ IN this palace I was born, and the
 “ following year my fifter came into the
 “ world. I was by nature endowed with
 “ my father’s inclination for the abftrufe
 “ fciences,

“ sciences, and my sister with the beauty
 “ of my mother.

“ BUT notwithstanding the wonderful
 “ magnificence of the enchanted palace,
 “ my mother and sister were soon tired
 “ with so solitary a retreat: my mother
 “ longed to visit her native country, and
 “ my sister wished to make a tour into
 “ the delicious plains between the Tigris
 “ and Euphrates, which my father had
 “ abandoned for a desert wherein she was
 “ almost dead with *ennui*.

“ MY father soon perceived their in-
 “ clinations, and did not oppose their de-
 “ parture: and as money was no object
 “ to a man who possessed the philosopher’s
 “ stone, he supplied them with a most
 “ magnificent equipage, and a numerous
 “ suite not unworthy of his former dignity.

“ THEY had scarcely arrived in Cir-

“ cassia, before the Sultan admired my
 “ sister, and offered her his hand in pre-
 “ ference to all the Circassian women.

“ THE beauties of the country, grew
 “ pale with envy, or languished in despair,
 “ at seeing a stranger carry off in a mo-
 “ ment that heart, which they had so long
 “ disputed in vain; but my poor mother
 “ absolutely died with joy.

“ MY father heard the news of his
 “ wife’s death, and his daughter’s good
 “ fortune at the same time, and behaved
 “ on the occasion like a true philosopher,
 “ neither afflicted at the one, nor re-
 “ joicing at the other. As to me, the
 “ joy I felt at my sister’s establishment,
 “ consoled me for the loss of my mother;
 “ meanwhile I continued to study the ab-
 “ struse sciences, in which I made a very
 “ considerable progress, and which I more
 “ and

“ and more delighted in, in proportion as

“ I obtained additional knowledge.

“ My father at length communicated

“ to me all his secrets, and suffered him-

“ self to die, that he might find out in the

“ next world, those secrets which he had

“ not been able to discover in this life.

“ He suffered himself, I say, to die, which

“ was a great proof of his resolution and

“ heroism : for with the secrets which he

“ possessed he might have lived as long as

“ he chose.

“ I INHERITED his treasures and a part

“ of his knowledge : but of all his gifts

“ this wand of truth is by far the most

“ precious. It is formed by an assem-

“ blage of all the secret virtues of the mi-

“ nerals and talismans ; with this wand I

“ command the elements.

“ My father had forbidden me to as-

“ cend

“ cend the summit of the mountain which
 “ we inhabited. As long as he lived, fear
 “ prevented me from disobeying his com-
 “ mands; but he was no sooner dead,
 “ than my curiosity got the better of my
 “ respect, and I climbed to the summit.

“ FROM that elevated spot I was struck
 “ with astonishment on looking down upon
 “ the delightful plains of the fortunate
 “ Cashmeer. And I immediately resolved
 “ to remove my habitation to the frontiers
 “ of that charming country.

“ THE invifible powers of the air af-
 “ fifted me in exporting the enchanted
 “ palace, and all the treasures with which
 “ my father had filled the caverns of the
 “ rocks, to the spot which I had fixed for
 “ my abode. But to prevent too great a
 “ conflux of persons who fhould come to
 “ confult me, from interrupting my ftu-
 “ dies,

“ dies, I rendered my habitation inacces-
 “ sible to all those whom I did not chuse
 “ to admit into my presence.

“ I ENJOYED in that delicious retreat
 “ all that tranquillity of mind, which is the
 “ greatest blessing that can be possessed by
 “ mortals ; and so far from envying my
 “ sister the crown of Circassia, my anxiety
 “ for her fate was the only circumstance
 “ which troubled my peace of mind.

“ SHE had three daughters, and I con-
 “ sulted my books on their destiny and
 “ hers. I found that she would have no
 “ more children, and that the King her
 “ husband would soon die, and leave her
 “ Regent. In casting the horoscopes of
 “ the eldest daughter, I discovered that
 “ she was menaced with some dreadful
 “ disaster, but without being able to as-
 “ certain the particulars, and could only
 “ learn,

“ learn, that she would be prosecuted by
 “ a hostile power almost equal to mine.
 “ I had immediately recourse to my wand,
 “ and having drawn the extremity over a
 “ skin of parchment, it traced of its own
 “ accord the horrible figure of Mother
 “ Long Tooth, the situation of her abode,
 “ her enchantments and inclinations. I
 “ was shocked at finding, that the most
 “ horrible of all creatures had a greater
 “ propensity to love, than to vengeance
 “ and cruelty ; that she employed her
 “ art in drawing men into her snares, and
 “ that death was the only resource of those
 “ who refused to gratify her desires. I
 “ had also the regret of discovering, that
 “ neither my power nor my art could
 “ avail against hers, as long as she pos-
 “ sessed Sonora and the Luminous Hat.

“ I LEARNED moreover by means of
 “ my

" my wand, that she had an only son-
 " nearly of the same age of *May-flower*,
 " and I was convinced, that her aim was
 " to carry off the heiress of Circassia, and
 " give her to Master Long Tooth. For
 " this reason I proposed to take her under
 " my protection, and my sister sent her
 " to me secretly. But that precaution
 " was of no service, for the Old Hag con-
 " trived to carry her off almost in my
 " presence, at the very moment when she
 " was about to be delivered to me. - I in
 " vain passed her off as my daughter; the
 " cruel Mother Long Tooth was not de-
 " ceived, and all my arts were ineffectual
 " in defending my poor little *May-flower*
 " from the clutches of the inhuman Sor-
 " cerefs. Yes, Caliph of Cashmeer, that
 " same *May-flower* whom you now see,
 " and

“ and whom you were in such a hurry
 “ to burn, is heiress of Circassia.

“ *May-flower* was thus torn from me,
 “ and neither my art nor the powers of
 “ this world could have delivered her
 “ from the fangs of the Sorcerers, if *Fid-*
 “ *dlestick* had not undertaken the enter-
 “ prise. That glory was reserved to the
 “ most ingenious, as well as the most
 “ faithful of all lovers: I well knew, that
 “ these two qualities were necessary to
 “ him who should carry off Sonora and
 “ the Luminous Hat; and I could not
 “ form a conjecture, where I should find
 “ a man of such a character.

“ ABOUT the same time Brilliant was
 “ born, and my books, which I consulted
 “ on that occasion, having informed me,
 “ that she would be an extraordinary
 “ beauty; I spread a secret contagion
 “ over

“ over the lustre of her eyes, well con-
 “ vinced that I should be applied to for
 “ the remedy, and resolved not to grant
 “ it, but on the condition of obtaining
 “ *May-flower* and the treasures of Mother
 “ Long Tooth.

“ THE curiosity of the Prince fortu-
 “ nately conducted him to my palace,
 “ before he made his appearance at Court;
 “ and what I discovered of his under-
 “ standing and sentiments, made me hope
 “ that if he undertook the adventure, he
 “ might succeed. I conceived a still
 “ higher opinion of him, when he re-
 “ turned to consult me. He did not ap-
 “ pear embarrassed at the things which I
 “ required in return for the remedies
 “ which he requested, although I did not
 “ conceal the danger of the undertaking.
 “ And when I demanded if he knew any
 “ one

“ one sufficiently rash to attempt such an
 “ essential service to Brilliant, he answer-
 “ ed, it only requires much emulation or
 “ much love, but the hopes of your ap-
 “ probation, and the prospect of glory,
 “ are sufficient inducements with me.

“ THIS answer from a man, whom I
 “ had already begun to esteem, filled me
 “ with joy, and I no longer doubted that
 “ he was designed by the Fates to be the
 “ deliverer of *May-flower*.

“ I GAVE him hopes that I should not
 “ be unfavourable if he undertook what
 “ I now described, as still more danger-
 “ ous than I had first represented. He
 “ was not alarmed; I kept my promise,
 “ and although I was not always permit-
 “ ted to assist him, yet my genius fre-
 “ quently inspired his in the execution of
 “ the enterprize; but after all my assist-
 “ ance,

“ance, the glory of accomplishing his
 “undertaking was due to his address, to
 “his firmness, and above all to his con-
 “fancy.

“DURING his journey, I employed
 “my wand to satisfy my curiosity con-
 “cerning *May-flower*: it traced her fi-
 “gure and the melancholy occupation of
 “her wretched existence. I found that
 “her person was sufficiently fine to re-
 “compense the dangers which he might
 “incur by attempting to deliver her; nor
 “did I think it necessary to touch the
 “heart of *Fiddlestick* in her favour, if her
 “understanding and sentiments corres-
 “ponded with the charms of her person.
 “But I acknowledge, that I inspired
 “*May-flower* with such a favourable opi-
 “nion of him, which a first interview
 “could not have suggested, but which he
 “would

“ would have deserved and gained with-
 “ out my assistance, in a very short time.
 “ My joy was extreme when I learnt of
 “ their arrival in Cashmeecr, and although
 “ it seemed cruel to render my abode in-
 “ accessible, when he was conducting *May-*
 “ *flower* to my presence, I did it to try
 “ his constancy, and to discover if he
 “ was worthy of her. You have seen
 “ such proofs of the triumph of his con-
 “ stancy, and must acknowledge that he
 “ deserves to reign upon the throne of
 “ such a Princess who reigns so complete-
 “ ly in his heart.

“ THOUGH I had long foreseen the re-
 “ volution in Circassia, yet I could not
 “ prevent it. All I could do was to de-
 “ liver the Queen my sister and her three
 “ daughters, and to place them in some
 “ unknown retreat, where they might be
 “ in

“ in security from the pursuits of the ty-
 “ rant.

“ FOR that purpose I raised an enchant-
 “ ment, by which the Queen appeared
 “ changed into a rook, her daughters and
 “ companions into magpies, and their
 “ maids of honour into starlings: to each
 “ other they remained in their proper
 “ shapes, and only seemed metamorphosed
 “ to strangers.

“ THE word *Fiddlestick*, which they
 “ uttered while they were playing at
 “ cards, which Prince Chaffinch assumed,
 “ was a talismanic expression, which my
 “ father had written upon the sides of the
 “ cavern and on the walls of his palace;
 “ it had been formed, as he himself de-
 “ clared in his tablets, under a most
 “ fortunate combination of the stars, was
 “ necessary to be assumed by the person,
 “ who

“ who should undertake to obtain possession of *May-flower*, the Luminous Hat, and Sonora; and the assumption of that name by Prince Chaffinch was perhaps the most difficult to accomplish in the whole undertaking.

“ SUCH Prince Chaffinch was the illusion which created so much surprise, when chance conducted both you and your brother to that enchanted palace; and such was the origin of *Fiddlestick*, that fortunate name under which you succeeded in all your undertakings.

“ WHILE *Fiddlestick* and *May-flower* sought my abode in vain, I discovered, Mother Long Tooth had arrived at Court, under the form of a negress; I was not unacquainted with her designs; but I knew also, that since the loss of Sonora and the Luminous Hat,
“ her

“ her power was so much diminished,
 “ that I could easily prevent all attempts
 “ aganist the life of *May-flower*.

“ I EXPOSED *May-flower* for the time
 “ to the cruelties of the widow and Mo-
 “ ther Long Tooth; satisfied that she
 “ would finally crown the wishes of the
 “ most faithful of lovers; and what greater
 “ proof of fidelity was ever shewn, than
 “ to prefer her in the most dreadful state
 “ of ugliness, when he was offered the
 “ hand of Brilliant, and the kingdom of
 “ Cashmeer.

“ WHEN he brought me Sonora and
 “ the Luminous Hat, I did not detain
 “ him long at my abode, but supplied him
 “ with the remedy for those bright eyes
 “ which had made such general havoc and
 “ devastation.

“ BUT although *Fiddlestick* returned to

K

“his

“ his beloved *May-flower* I well knew
 “ that he would stand in need of some
 “ assistance more powerful than his own.

“ I accordingly employed all the genii
 “ who obeyed the power of my enchant-
 “ ments, to watch over the security of
 “ *May-flower*, till my arrival at the Court
 “ of Cashmeer. On the moment of my
 “ departure I was detained a short time
 “ by the most agreeable news. Couriers
 “ from Circassia brought me the happy
 “ information, that my sister was again
 “ seated on the throne of her father.
 “ The first acquainted me that the usurper
 “ had perished by a revolution as sudden
 “ as that which had placed the crown on
 “ his head; the second that my sister was
 “ again restored to the throne of her fa-
 “ ther, and the third that acclamations
 “ and

“and transports of joy were general
“throughout the kingdom.

“THUS Sire, *Fiddlestick* is not so badly
“married as your Majesty imagined; and
“the loss of Cashmeer and Brilliant will
“be amply supplied by the throne of Cir-
“cassia and the possession of his beloved
“*May-flower*.”

SERENA had no sooner finished her re-
lation, and the Caliph was preparing a long
harangue of compliments to her, and of
excuses to *May-flower*, when he was re-
lieved from his embarrassments by sup-
per's being announced, and his Most Se-
rene Majesty had only time to say, “I
“trust, Most Mighty Serena, that you
“will unite with me in wishing that the
“brides and bridegrooms may enjoy that
“happiness which they deserve; that Bril-
“liant may bear to Phoenix a numerous
“pro-

" progeny as beautiful as their parents;
 " that the palace of Circassia may be filled
 " with little *Fiddlesticks*, who shall equal
 " their father in ingenuity and courage,
 " and their mother in meekness and pa-
 " tience; and that future generations may
 " continue to hail the auspicious hour
 " which placed on the throne Sultan *Fid-*
 " *dlestick the first*, and his beloved *May-*
 " *flower.*"



FINIS.